

THE ULTRA CONSOLES MAG!!!

MEAN MACHINE

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NO 9 JUNE



THIS MONTH'S SPECIALS:

FORGOTTEN WORLDS - SEGA!!
4 XENON II - SEGA EXCLUSIVE!!
F-ZERO - BEST EVER RACER!!!
BOY AND HIS BLOB REVIEWED!!
HARDGALL - MEGA BASEBALL!!

SEGA



MEGADRIVE



SUPER FAMICOM



NINTENDO



GAMEBOY



ULTRA MAN

THE ULTIMATE
WARRIOR?

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▲ *Solstice* is reviewed on page 38.

CONT

MEAN MACHINES



reporters to
thanked by those
who hand out advice on all the
NES and Gameboy games. Plus
a round-up of the latest hot
news about consoles in the UK
and Europe.

NEWS FROM 13 JAPAN

What's happening in the country
that is responsible for all the
best consoles? This is the page
where we give you the up to
date scoops on what's going on.
Whatever goes on in Japan is
bound to eventually make it
here, so watch this space.

NEWS FROM 14 AMERICA

With so many top Yank
companies producing consoles
these days, it's only right that
we let you know what's
happening over there. Read all
about the new "Dan Quayle is
President" game - guaranteed to
make you shiver!

MEAN MACHINES

Our unpaid staff member does

PREVIEWS

XENON II

90

The brilliant mageblaster makes
it across from the computers
and MEAN MACHINES has an
exclusive look at the Master
System version. Those hungry
for a shoot 'em up should wait
their appetites with this preview!

BOULDERDASH92

As old as it may be, but more
fun just can't be had for love nor

money. Read all about this fab
game soon to appear on the
NES only in MEAN MACHINES.

CAPTAIN SKYHAWK

94

There are few truly great shoot
'em ups on the NES, but this
looks set to join the elite. MEAN
MACHINES has a sneak peek at
the game and lets the readers in
on the act.

MEGADRIVE

WRESTLE WARS
KING'S BOUNTY
BLOCKOUT
HARDBALL

16
42
66
78

REVIEW

GAMEBOY

BOULDERDASH
GREMLINS II

46
55

TENTS

S JUNE ISSUE NINE



▲ Betting monsters on page 38

is stuck on a game enjoying. That's the Helpline community answer. It can't be Hurrah!

POST

Another free from What? poets review. Me, who

DO IT

to win some prizes. Including a Super Famicom, a Sega Game Boy, and a Sega Game Boy. Not to be missed - a perfect opportunity to complete your console collection.

CHARTS

The definitive charts for the Master System, Megadrive, Nintendo and Gameboy are found here. Check out the winners and losers, the climbers and divers, the new entries and the tips for the top. Phew!

COVER STICKERS

Want to know how to get your stickers to glow in the dark? Then read this page which gives you all the bump on the stickers and how to use them to win a Super Famicom!

MEGAMART

The column for all your buying and selling needs. You can even find out how to get a good deal on a game or a console. It's all in giving you value for money.

YOB'S GOSSIP

The YOB picks up more dirt on the console industry and serves it on a platter for your

NEXT MONTH

When we return we will

MEAN MACHINES,



▲ King's Bounty gets the MEAN MACHINES treatment on page 42.



▲ The incredible F-Zero is reviewed this issue.

REVIEWED

SUPER FAMICOM

ULTRAMAN 36
F-ZERO 82

SEGA

FORGOTTEN WORLDS 56

NINTENDO

SOLSTICE 38
A BOY AND HIS BLOB 60
SUPER SPIKE VOLLEYBALL 70

EDITORIAL

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and Seggs for two-player Tairis and
Nisa beach on a hot, sunny day, a
Monaco cafe for the best omelette
[ambon aver, Shropshire Council for
making some super skill] (and very
much more) and Paul O'Donnell
Disclancy for being utterly tee and
brill] (and helping me get the mag

HELLO TO: Dan "The Man" Curly -
congrats on the Championship! But
don't forget - alcohol destroys your
brain cells.

**THE NOVEL WHERE WE ALL
WORK:** Priory Court, 30-32
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Ph me I was not running away behind
schedules! This stresses me out because it means
I'm working late into the night yet again. So
therefore I'm not very happy at the moment.
What I need is a punishment to let off lots of
steam. And that punishment will be any person
what I find copying, misreading or ripping off
any part of this mag without the permission of its
publishers Aschaff.

Competition can be a funny game. Misleading. In fact, more amusing still is the fact that **TEAM** employees or their immediate boss may not enter competitions, go through gimmicks. But the most hysterical thing of all is that **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson**, Mr. Monday and his family from West Warwicked can't enter competitions **GM** read his magazine? That is because they hate everything and fight their farts at office parties. And whatever **Mary J. Blige** says on competition matters is law. So don't write me unless

incredible! That Gemmy has finally been won. Hurrah. Hurrah and jolly heels once. My very first vehicle is a Peugeot 306 GTT. That was easy and most of you know that. Am guessing the mileage. Well that was another thing entirely. The biggest miss was Dave Robbins of Bloechanth - I've decided to send you a special holiday prize at a Segway motor CG for your holiday. Well. However, the winner (this was only an incredible 5 miles out) was Jamie Burton of Braham's Camle. Congratulations, The Gemmy is in the post. Now what shall I give you next month?

MORE MEGAPICS

Coming in faster than an elephant on heat are more of your marvelous pictures. The Somo picture was penned by Ross King (I hope you haven't got a brother called Ewan). Andrew Burlingame did the

"Controlled by Experts" drawing. Tim Weymark drew the Moonwalker and Alfalfa pictures and Mike at the Nintendo Helpline did the excellent cartoon of Jaz. Keep sending 'em in - the address is, WHOPPA PICTURES, MEAN MACHINES, PRIORITY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON, EC1R 3AU.



SEGA



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WHO ARE THOSE MUGS?



If you haven't already noticed, there's a new boy in town! Well, new to MEAN MACHINES. Richard "Bedwetter, Headgutter, Goltbitter, Madhatter, Bythelatter, Codnatter, Redsetter, Trendsetter (I've heard them all)" Leadbetter (for it is he) will be very familiar to regular readers of CVG magazine, where he has been a reviewer for yonks. But we at MEAN MACHINES decided that he was too good just for CVG, and managed to

persuade him to join us part-time to offer his expert advice on console games!

If you haven't ever heard of him before, Dick hangs out in Witham, Essex where he terrorises the populace with his fiendish phone-box frolics. I'd like to reveal more (like him), but at the moment names and situations must be kept secret to protect the innocent. He's a keen "photographer", part-time gigolo and housewife's choice for the title of Witham Town Most Handsome Hair Award. What impressed the panel of judges from the local Women's Institute most of all was not just that his flick is beautifully sculptured, it is aerodynamically designed to have a drag co-efficient of only 1.4, so it doesn't slow him down when he's making that escape from an irate husband.

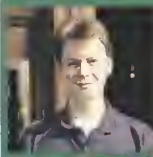
We're sure that you'll learn lots more about this cheeky chappie as time goes on - but for the moment I just hope you'll give him a nice, friendly welcome!

And here's another new face! Guest star Paul Glancey! CVG's Associate Editor managed to stop wiggling his joystick long enough to put together the Wrestle Wars review. Cor lumme! What a packed house we have.

See you next month...

TALENTED PETS

Ohi! Such disappointment. Only one talented pet this month. Still, he's a cool Westie called Harry who earns a living for his owner, Stephen Pannell of Wallington, Surrey by doing a remarkable impression of a Christmas cracker! What a dog!



I CAN HAVE PLAYED THE LOT! RIGNALL
The boy Jazza's first machine was an Atari 400 (with 32K upgrade) - It was the best computer available in the early 80's and had a brilliant range of top arcade games, including Robofron, Defender and Asteroids. Since then he's had virtually every machine available: Spectrum, C64, Vectrex, Coleco, Atari VCS (it was cheap!), ST, Atari 7800, Nintendo, Amiga, Master System, PC Engine, Gameboy, Megadrive, Lynx, Game Gear and finally Super Famicom. What a spewny gift!
CURRENT FAVE GAMES: ULTRAMAN, BLOCKOUT, STREETFIGHTER II

MATT REGAN
Matt's first was a Coleco - he was a big fan of the coin-ops, and the Coleco certainly had its fair share of great games. A few years later he was seduced by a Nintendo, being a big fan of Kung-Fu and Golf, then finally in 1989 he settled for the Amiga. However, once he joined MEAN MACHINES he was well and truly bitten by the console bug, and recently he's invested in a Gameboy, Megadrive and a Super Famicom.
CURRENT FAVE GAMES: ULTRAMAN, WRESTLE WARS, JOHN MADDEN S

OZ "ONLY THE BEST FOR ME" BROWNE
Oz was one of the first people in Britain to get a C64, way back in 1983. Early titles like Impossible Mission and Encounter were top in his book. Then in 1988 he decided it was time to upgrade his machine, and the rich devil bought himself an Amiga so he could play such delights as Kick Off, Star Ray, Xenon II and Speedball. The latest addition to his computer entertainment desk is a Megadrive - "It's my favourite", quoth he.
CURRENT FAVE GAMES: STRIDER, THUNDERFORCE III

GARY "DICKENSIAN" HARROD
Since he was born into a family of destitute paupers, poor old Gary couldn't afford any sort of games machine. His mother saved up for ten years and bought him an Abacus, but the games were crap because it didn't have any graphics and the only sound it made was the click of the bells sliding together. Sad, but true. These days, though, he's famous and successful and has so much money he's going to buy a Super Famicom.
CURRENT FAVE GAMES: ULTRAMAN, STREETFIGHTER II, GG SHINOBI

CHINES S MED



DAD SPANGED HIS MOTOR

Has your Dad recently mangled his motor? If so, grab a camera and get snapping - because we want pics! Yes indeed! For the entertainment of both readers and ourselves we want pics of the most spectacular spangs, the craziest crashes and the coolest crunches! The only rule is that no injuries were sustained during the accident. The best pic will get a special MEAN MACHINES prize. Be biling scrapas 'n' scratches down the side of Dad's brand new M-reg car will be much appreciated! Special bonus points will be awarded if it's Dad's car and Mum did the damage! Send your pics to: BLINKING FLIP THAT'S MY NO-CLAIMS BEAN OUT OF THE WINDOW, MEAN MACHINES, PRIDRY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON, EC8R 3AU.

RATING SYSTEM

Here at MEAN MACHINES we are committed to giving you the most in-depth console reviews. Here's how they work.

GAME DIFFICULTY: This tells you how easy or tough the game is. If you're a novice player, easy games should keep you happy. If you're a veteran joystick-jockey, medium or hard games are recommended.

LIVES: Tells you how many times you can die and still return from the grave.

CONTINUES: Tells you how often you can restart from where you died. Beware: too many continues can allow you to finish the game too quickly, and seriously damage your enjoyment.

SKILL LEVELS: Many games let you fix the difficulty level for yourself, so you can increase the challenge if you get good at it. This tells you how many skill levels there are.

RESPONSIVENESS: Is it humanly possible to avoid that mutant's death-beam, or does the joystick refuse to obey your frantic commands? This section lets you know!

PRESENTATION: This is an important part of any game. Are the instructions clear (and in English)? Do the option screens make sense and look pretty? Is the screen well laid out? Is there plenty of in-game info? This rating tells you all.

GRAPHICS: This includes not only the quality of the sprites and their animation, but the backgrounds as well. Graphics are judged not only on their prettiness, but on how well they are suited to the game.

SOUND: The difference between a booming, catchy intro tune and a few weak beeps that sound like a dying Spectrum is indicated here. Music and effects can make a big difference to a game, so don't ignore this factor.

PLAYABILITY: Some games you just can't stop playing, no matter how late at night it is. This measures the addictiveness of the game, and how much you'll think about it - even when you're not playing it!

LASTABILITY: You don't want to spend your cash on something that will only last a week. Check this box out to judge if you are going to be playing it in a month, or be bored with it within a week.

OVERALL: This is it. This mark takes into account all the above ratings and acts as a guide to the game's overall quality. If a game scores over 90%, it's a Megagame and is well worth buying!

PLAYERS: Simply tells you how many players can play the game - either simultaneously, or one after the other.

GAME TYPE

These nifty icons show you what sort of game it is - here's the full list:



SHOOT 'EM UP



PLATFORM



BEAT 'EM UP



DRIVING



SPORTS



ADVENTURE



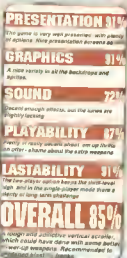
SIMULATION



PUZZLE



ARCADE



MARKS

90+ A MEAN MACHINES MEGAGAME! A completely superb game which shouldn't be missed.

80-90 A very, very good game which just misses out on the Megagame award due to minor deficiencies. Definitely try it.

66-79 A pretty good game which should still appeal to fans of the genre.

45-64 An average game - might disappoint some fans.

30-44 Below average. Very few players will get much entertainment.

11-29 A very poor game indeed which will only be played a few times before being shelved.

1-4 An utterly ghastly travesty which should be avoided at all costs.

AWARDS

MEGAGAME

When you see this on a review, it means that the game has gained the highest of award MEAN MACHINES can bestow. And if the game is for your machine, you better start saving for it now!



CLASSIC

This is given to a golden oldie which MEAN MACHINES decides to review. Although the game has been out for a while, if you haven't got it in your collection, you're missing out.

FORMAT

This icon tells you what type of cartridge the game is on - here's the full list:



SEGA



NINTENDO



MEGADRIVE



GX4000



GAMEROY



FAMICOM

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NEWS



THREE NEW TITLES SLIP OUT

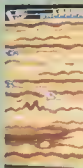
Three new official Mega Drive titles recently managed to slip out under the MEAN MACHINES radar system (ie Sega couldn't organise themselves to get the games to us in time for a full review this issue), and they are Gain Ground, Arrow Flash and Shadow Dancer.

Shadow Dancer is a fairly good Ninja game. The graphics, sound and gameplay are nowhere near as good as Revenge of Shinobi, but it should appeal to beat 'em up fans nonetheless.

Sadly, the other two are very poor examples of Mega Drive software. Gain Ground is a conversion of a very obscure Sage coin-op that utterly bombed when it was released a couple of years ago. The graphics and sound are quite good, but the bland and unexciting gameplay won't keep you at your Mega Drive for very long at all.

Arrow Flash is a pathetic horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up - one of the worst available on the Mega Drive - and features rubbish graphics, feeble sound and very tedious gameplay. Why didn't Sega release something like Thunderforce III instead? Who knows, but even if you're desperate for a blast, you should avoid this at all costs.

Hopefully the next batch of games will be a bit more exciting - we'll keep you posted.



MINDSCAPE'S LITTLE MIRACLE

Here's something to take the pain out of piano lessons. Mindscape's Miracle Piano Teaching System consists of a 49-key piano keyboard which connects to the joypad socket of your Nintendo, and a Nintendo cartridge which contains all the teaching software. The keyboard (which can operate independant of the Nintendo incidentally) produces 128 digital instrument sounds in 16 note polyphony, has built-in stereo speakers as well as a headphones socket and has 8 channel MIDI-in and MIDI-out ports. The system also comes with a plug-in sustain pedal.

Features such as these would be hard come by on sub-£300 synthesizers, and Mindscape reckon that the tutorage from the software would be worth around £2,000 of a human teacher's time, so it comes as a pleasant surprise to find that the whole Miracle system (which doesn't include the NES) will be priced at only £199.00. Expect it in the shops in September, and a full review in MEAN MACHINES then.

THE MIRACLE PIANO TEACHING SYSTEM



SEGA GET INTO FIRST GEAR

After many months of selling on grey import, the Game Gear has finally been officially launched in Britain. Sega's colour handheld should be in High Street shops as you read this, selling for £99.99. For that price the punier gets only the Game Gear itself, without a

game, a mains adaptor or batteries. A full package with these essentials is something Sega's UK distributor, Virgin, is considering for release later this year at a higher price.

The first batch of seven releases comprises Super Monaco GP, Column, G-Loc, Wonderboy, Dragon Crystal, Psychic World and Mickey Mouse.

This means the colour handheld war is now officially declared, and at this price, the Game Gear takes badly against Atari's much more powerful Lynx, which is currently retailing in a similar package (la without a game or a mains adaptor) at only £79.99.

Still, with now and much more exciting titles in the pipeline (check out GG Shinobi in the Japanese news), plus the TV adaptor (which should retail at around £70.00), this Christmas should see a pitched battle between the two machines.



DON'T CALL US! CALL THE NINTENDO HOTLINE!

Stymied by the horse-headed boss in Adventure of Link? Bombed by Bowser in Mario 2? Sounds like you need professional help. In which case, don't ring MEAN MACHINES, ring the trained specialists on the Nintendo Hotline. Eight "counselors" have undergone three month's coaching on all the NES games officially available, and they're waiting for your call between mid-day and 8 PM, Mondays to Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 in the morning till 3 in the afternoon. They take 3,000 calls a week, the majority of which concern Legend of Zelda and Simon's Quest.

Pictured here are the counselors, but don't let that put you off. The number to call is...

0329 822662

So now you know. By the way, they don't answer questions on the Super Famicom - so don't go ringing them about that. Ok?



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| Super Famicom (Scart) inc 2 Games | £299 00 |
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| Sega Megadrive (Pal) inc Game | £135 00 |
| Sega Megadrive (Scart) inc Game | £135 00 |
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| Arcade Power Stick | £39 95 |
| Megadrive Fan (Japanese Magazine) | £7 99 |
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| SOFTWARE | |
| World Cup Soccer | £32 95 |
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| Alterburn II | £34 95 |
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| Super Shunbi | £34 95 |
| Hellfire | £34 95 |
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| Hard Drivin | £34 95 |
| Vermilion (RPG with battery back up + Hint book) | £44 95 |
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| Festel One | TBA |

SAE for full price list



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| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Inc Game | £270 95 |
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| PC Engine core grafx (pal) inc Game | £169 00 |
| PC Engine (scart) inc game | £159 00 |
| PC Engine Super Grafx (pal) inc Game | £265 00 |
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We keep in stock the whole range of PC Engine titles from Drunken Master onwards (S.A.E.)

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|-----------------------------------|---------|
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| World Wrestling | £38 95 |
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All above NES titles are UK releases

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Please Ring for New Releases

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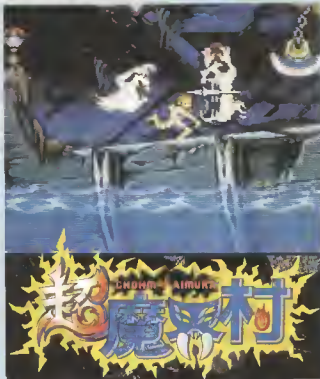


SHINOBI GETS ON GG



SOFTWARE BUILDING ON SUPER FAMICOM

Also just out in Japan is the Super Famicom version of the classic town planning caper, *Sim City*. In it you have to construct a city from nothing, get it populated, create industry, and then keep it all going for as long as possible. Sounds dull? It isn't, and this version is probably the best of the lot. As well as all the novelty disasters like tidal waves, earthquakes, plagues, crashes and even monster attacks, the Super Famicom version shows seasonal changes by changing the screen colours, and it even lets you build your own house (which is bigger than all the others in the city). The only problem is that all the text (and there is a fair bit) is in Japanese, so even if you wanted an imported version it would be wise to wait for the American Super NES version.



One of the most exciting new Super Famicom releases is *Super Ghouls 'n' Ghosts*, a pseudo-conversion of Capcom's top-tier coin-op which starred a ghost-busting knight in shining armour. We say "pseudo-conversion" because this actually has more in it than the

arcade game, and uses the Super Famicom's amazing sprite chips to the max, rocking platforms and even the whole screen to give the courageous cavalier a night old run for his money. If the game isn't available from importers as you read this, it soon will be, so if you want it, get on the blower!

NEWS



FROM JAPAN



Doing the rounds on the Megadrive in Japan (and in your favourite importer's warehouse) is *Bonanza Brothers*, the conversion of the cult Sega arcade game. It's a split-screen one or two player game which puts you in the burglary business and sets you off on robbing banks and houses, without being caught or shot by the numerous security guards who are on the prowl. The arcade game was quite a laugh, and from what we've seen of it, the conversion is pretty faithful.

GREMLIN



FROM USA

ELECTRONIC ARTS START ON SUPER FAMICOM

As you read this a certain Mr Rignall is living it up in Chicago, USA at the Summer Consumer Electronics Show. Buying some of the drinks (non-alcoholic of course) are Electronic Arts who will be detailing their upcoming Megadrive/Genesis releases, as well as a low of the games they plan to launch when the Super NES (the American Super Famicom) hits the shelves over there later this year. And they are on Genesis, NHL Hockey, F22-Tactical Fighter, Might and Magic - Getee To Another World, Road Rash, Starlight, The Immortal and Earl Weaver Baseball.

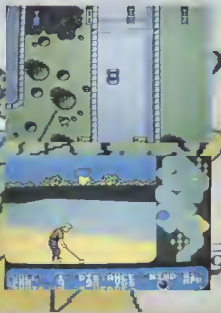
GOLF POWER

GREMLIN GO TO HOLLYWOOD

British software merchants Gremlin Graphics have just had two of their Amiga games released on Nintendo in the USA. The two are Greg Norman's Ultimate Golf (renamed Power Golf for the American market) and Super Cars (which hasn't been renamed at all).

The first is a joint 3D golf game which lets you shoot for birdies on some of the world's most famous courses, and if they're not good enough you can design 18 holes of your own using the on-screen course designer, then save them on the cartridge or battery-powered memory.

Super Cars is a Super Sprint style racing game in which you have to pilot your sporty speedmobile around all sorts of hair-raising tracks. The rest of the field end your race by using a special equip your car with engines, tyres, weapons and shields, or even a completely new car.

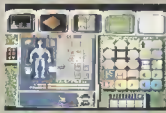
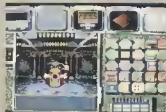


The three Super NES releases are even more exciting. They are PGA Tour Golf, Lakers vs Celtics and the NBA Playoffs (which it seems is one of the few American titles which will never be officially released in Britain because the NBA won't allow it), AND (wait for it!) John Madden Football! Rooty-oot-oot! Expect all of these to be available on import (if not officially) by Christmas at the latest, and expect Jaz to bring back lots more into on these and many more brilliant new games when he returns.



SUPER STUFF FROM MINDSCAPE

As soon as the Super NES (that is, the American Super Famicom) is released later this year, Mindscape will be releasing at least three titles for the machine. The two which have been confirmed are Captive (a British Amiga game, which won many awards for its 3D adventure-type gameplay) and Paperboy II (sequel to Atari's fairly popular delivery-boy game). Word also has it that Gauntlet II will also be converted to Super NES, and that should be something really special!





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For this you get our very own HOT CONSOLE magazine, special deals & discounts & £1 off every new game ordered.

Please ring for full details.

Below are examples of new games that we have in stock:-

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| DICK TRACY | AUGUSTA | CHESS MASTER | KLAX | G-LOC |
| JAMES POND | PILOT WINGS | R-TYPE | RYGAR | WOODY POP |
| MIDNIGHT RESISTANCE | DARIUS | ROBOCOP | ZARLOR | BASEBALL |
| VALIS III | F1 ZERO | PARODIUS | CHIPS | PSYCHIC WORLD |
| GYNOUG | SUPER MARIO | SUZUKI | MS PACMAN | CHASE HQ |
| GAIRIES | ULTRAMAN | LOOPZ | ROBO SQUASH | SUPER MONACO |
| DARIUS II | ACT RAISER | GREMLINS | SLIME WORLD | HEAD BUSTER |
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WRESTLE WAR

And now! Lay-dees and gentlemen! Here is your chance to become King of the Ring in this technologically advanced tournament which pits you, as the handsome and heroic Bruce Blade, against eight renegade wrestling rednecks. Play solo and Bruce is entered into an All-American tournament, but if another player wants to join in, he can choose to fight as any of the eight opponents in a one-off battle of biceps.

Bruce begins the tournament as a relative unknown, and to get onto the circuit he first has to beat the rather unskilled Mohawk Kid. With The Kid out for the count, you can then choose Bruce's next opponent from one of five who come from all across the USA. Beat this gang of mean matmen, and you've made it to the semi-final, where Bruce faces Bucksan Rogers. In the unlikely event that Rogers is beaten, Bruce finds himself in the final with only Grand Kong, America's hardest wrestler, standing between him and the champion's belt!



A RINGSIDE VIEW

Although the playing area in *Wrestle War* is quite small, it does scroll to follow the protagonists around the ring, and in a one-player game, the viewpoint flips over so that Bruce Blade is always at the front. This way you always get a good view of the action. Of course, just like the real thing, the fight isn't confined to the ring! If either wrestler is thrown through the ropes, the other can follow, and continue the fight while the invisible referee counts them both out. To lend a little support, you can grab a nearby chair or other heavy object and start beating your opponent over the head with it!

IN THE RED CORNER...



The first fighter Bruce has to beat. He starts with only half Bruce's energy and is easily trashed.



A hockey-masked Minneapolis mauler who would be happy to spend hours applying the sole of his boot to Bruce's face.



The scourge of the San Francisco rings, this guy will try to mash your head with a knee-drop if he can get you on the mat.



When you live in New York you have to be tough, and Dan, the butt-kicking man is certainly no exception!



▲ Sent flying by Mr. Beardie-Weirdie!



REVIEW



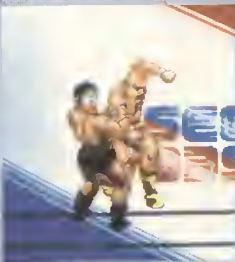
COMMENT

I've taken quite a lot of 'phone calls asking about Megadrive wrestling games over the last few months, but I reckon I can relax a bit now, because although this isn't actually a WWF game it should be good enough to keep most wrestling fans happy! The tighter graphics are really great - certainly the best I've seen on any wrestling game outside of an arcade - and the animation is spectacularly

PAUL

dynamic. There is quite a bit of skill involved in the gameplay, and though the control system will more than likely break either your wrist or your joystick, it all adds to the frenetic fun. Definitely the champion Megadrive wrestling game.

▲ The deadly pile-driver!



▲ Sledgehammer

NIMROD
FALCON

This Miami masked marvel's only vice is that he just loves to put half-baked wrestlers on the floor.

TITAN
MORGAN

blond Texan hard man from alias. He's another one who likes leap on your face when your on a deck.

BUCKSKIN
ROGERS

The second-toughest wrestler in America, and he's not ashamed to let it show. Beat him and you're in the final against...

GRAND KONG



Apily-named, this gorilla is the American champion and he's not about to let some two-bit tussler in heap black shorts take his belt.



▲ Getting it in the neck!



▲ Press all the buttons to stand.



▲ Send him crashing down!

COMMENT

Wrestling is a silly sport, so it's good that this is a silly game. Not as silly as Ringside Angel, admittedly, but lots of laughs nonetheless. The challenge is easy enough at first but soon gets

MATT tricky (unlike Ka.ge.kl where you can win every game with one move). The wrestler sprites are chunky with superb animation and the only graphical annoyance is the screen switch that happens when they move around the ring. Like Paul I think you'll get lots of enjoyment out of this, so buy, buy, buy!

MATMEN MANOEUVRES

The control buttons are defined as punch, kick and hold. The first two are straightforward enough, but the third locks the wrestlers in a clinch. As soon as this happens, you quickly choose the move to use next, hold down the corresponding direction, and start hammering away at either the B button (for a slam) or the A and C buttons for a rope throw. In a two-player game, whoever presses fastest gains the advantage and sends his opponent flying across the ring



After a rope throw, you must prepare for the opponent's rebound, and press one of the three buttons to perform either a Lariat (stick out your arm and catch his neck), a drop kick, or a shoulder throw (bend down and throw him over your shoulder).



Similarly, if your opponent is on the floor the three buttons provide three options - help him up (by the throat), stomp on his body (some characters can also do a knee drop to the head) or him to the floor. Keep him down for a count of three and you've won the match



BY: SEGA

PRICE: £34.99

RELEASE DATE: JULY

GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

LIVES: N/A

CONTINUES: 3

SKILL LEVELS: 3

RESPONSIVENESS: GOOD

1-2
PLAYERS

PRESENTATION 82%

An easily accessible options screen and good single or double player options.

GRAPHICS 90%

The playing area isn't given much screen space, but the graphics for the fighters and all their moves are spectacular!

SOUND 88%

Lots of sampled grunts, cheers and announcements backed by a fairly funky tune.

PLAYABILITY 87%

The control system is quite easy to get to grips with, and after that the game is great fun for one or two players.

LASTABILITY 85%

Long-lasting fun in two player mode, and the tournament should take some winning too!

OVERALL 88%

One of the few really good computer wrestling games. A must for lovers of the sport.

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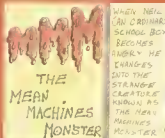


WARNING! LETTER ZONE!!!

His nose might feel as if he's stuffed two footballs up them, but this lil YOB is here to read your letters and write more classic replies. Just don't ask him to say "I'd like a second class ticket to Nottingham", or you'll be likely to get a flit in your face. If you've got anything super to say. Or something crap to say. Or have some

pictures, photos, jokes, posms, grivances... or anything you think might interest the YOB, send it to: YOB'S SNOTTY MAILBAG, MEAN MACHINES, PRIORY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON, EC1R 3AU. And don't forget that there's a star prize of £150 for the letter of the month...

MEAN YOB!



SOMETHING INSIDE HIM STIRS



IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF TASTE

To MEAN YOB, if you are truly a MEAN YOB you will print this letter. Anyway I am mad on WWF Wrestling games on the Megadrive is there any in the shops? Well I don't know but you YOB must surely know. I get MEAN MACHINES every month and if I missed an issue I would hit my head ten times with a sledge hammer (but I never have).

Can you tell me the best game on the Megadrive. I look at loads of Megadrive top tens and the best Megadrive game is different on every top ten. I think there should only be one best Megadrive game! Please could you make MEAN MACHINES thicker because when I first bought MEAN MACHINES I thought it was worth it. I liked all the reviews and it's a mega, cool, trendy mag so keep up the good work.

Niall Gallagher, Bristol, Leicester
YOB: I thought it would be obvious why lists of best Megadrive games differ, but I'll explain anyway. It's because people's taste in games are different. For example, Jazza's top three Megadrive games are John Madden's Football, Sonic the Hedgehog and Ravage of Shinobi. Matt likes Sonic the Hedgehog, John Madden's, and Mickey Mouse. I personally like Ghouls 'n' Ghosts, Ravage of Shinobi and Rambo. So you see, it's all down to personal taste.

WHINGIN' ON

Dear YOB,
I am writing for me and other distressed Megadrive owners. When the Megadrive was released everyone said it was the best console and nothing could match it. You even said it was the console to buy, so us with cash went and bought one. A couple months later the Super Famicom comes out and every game on it gets a Mega Game.

Here I am, I've begged my Dad for yorks to get a console and he always said, 'Get a computer' and

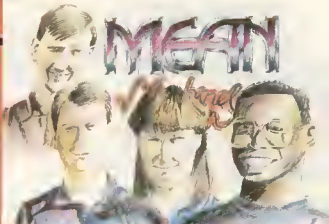
finely I get a Megadrive, the Super Famicom comes out, I get a Megadrive, the two decent games Super Monaco GP and Strider, I'm short of cash and envy the Super Famicom.

James Sinclair, London SW5 (A jealous Megadrive owner)

YOB: Oh dear! What a sad state you've worked yourself into. Just because a console or computer is superseded, it doesn't instantly become rubbish. It just becomes the second best place of equipment available. It's the same with any piece of technology - camaras, hi-fi systems, cars, computers, television sets, videos... the list is endless. So stop worrying and think yourself lucky you've got a Megadrive. There are thousands of people who would love to have a machine like yours!

CHART-TASTIC

Dear MEAN YOB
I've got some good ideas for your magazine, as well as the normal charts you could write alongside the MEAN MACHINES' gang's own top ten best games for each console and change it every month. Also for a poster you don't you just nick a good picture of a Megadrive cartridge case eg Ravage of Shinobi, Moonwalker



and Mickey Mouse are good. James Tedstone, Blackwood, Cardiff

YOB: That sounds like quite a good idea, but the team already list their favourite games on the editorial page! Your poster idea has been taken into consideration - keep watching those centre pages!

P'O-ED POSTERPHILE

Dear Mr MEAN MACHINE
I would like to complain about the issue that came out on the 7th of April. On the front of this particular edition it said that inside I would receive a poster (or mega pull-out as you call it) of Bart Simpson. So I scrimped and saved my last bit of pocket money to buy this special magazine. But to my disgust when

Well... sorry the first great picture

I opened the magazine I found it was not a poster at all just a reject front cover. 'What a rip-off!' I thought. It's bad enough having to pay 1.75 for a bundle of paper without paying for REJECTS!

I now know why you are called MEAN MACHINES because that is exactly what you are; mean! I'd have thought that you would be able to afford a decent poster of Bart Simpson after charging 1.75 for each edition. All I can say is I'm deeply shocked and also love your magazine and buy it every month! Lisa Carlisle, Horforth, Leeds
YOB: Ah well, that's life. Actually, the poster was messed up during the colour processing - all those horrid brown colours should have been red. Still, we hope to make up for it in the not too distant future.



◀ A great (and sick) cartoon from Adam King.

the art and business Jet from West End of Clinton.

THE
HEDGEHOG

**"the best
game ever..."**

SONIC



the new
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TIME
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MEAN MACHINES

SCORE 3100
TIME 2:30
RING 2



SCORE
TIME 0:00
RING 0



SEGA

THREE SADS AND ONE HAPPY

Dear Jaz,
Could you please answer the following questions.

1. Is Super Mario Bros 4 coming out on the Nintendo or is it just out on the Super Famicom?

2. Do you know when - or if - the following games will be released on the NES? Chase HQ and Snow Bros.

Naz the Bez, Monmouth, Gwent
JAZ THE SPAZ: Sad news: Super Mario 4 is out on the Super Famicom only. More sad news: Chase HQ won't be appearing on the NES. Happy news: Snow Bros is currently being programmed in the US. Back to sad news: release dates in the UK, if there will be any, are yet to be announced.

2. Which is the best game for the Lynx?
3. Is Finet Fight going to be out on the Amiga?

James Round, Davyhulme, Manchester

JAZ: The Lynx currently being sold in the shops is the bulky, battery-gobbling old design. What I can't understand is that if you've already got a Gameboy, what the hell do you want a Lynx for? I'd be happy with what you've already got, and invest the cash in some new games. The best game for the Lynx, if you're really interested, is Klax. US Gold are converting Final Fight to the Amiga (and all other home computers) and it'll be available during October.

SUPER FAMI-MUDDLE

Dear Jaz,
My parents have finally agreed to buy me a Super Famicom. However I cannot decide whether to get a Japanese version or wait and get an American one when it comes out.

1. Will the American version work on UK televisions?

2. Do you think the American version will be cheaper than the current Japanese import price? If so when will it be available from

LYNX? LYNX??

Dear Jaz,
Just a few questions, could you please answer them.

1. I own a Gameboy and I am hoping to buy a Lynx. Could you tell me if the Lynx that is now being sold for around £80 to £130 the new or old Lynx? If it is the old one is Alan just selling it cheap before they release the new ones?

OFF WE GO...

Dear Jaz,
I am on the brink of buying a Megadrive and I would be pleased if you could answer my questions.

1. What is the game Lakas vs Celtics like? Is it better than Super Real Basketball?

2. Is it OK to buy a Megadrive which has been converted to run Japanese, USA and UK games?

3. Will Legend of Hero Tonna my fave arcade game - be released?

Guy Dickenson, Chiswick, London



JAZ: It's a bit of a shame Lakas is the best game - it's got more variety and has a better gameplan than Super Real Basketball. 2. Obviously the Megadrive in question is an import, in which case it doesn't matter what has been done to it - it's up to the shop you buy it from to give you a guarantee. 3. Hero Tonna might well appear on the Megadrive early next year - I'll keep you posted.



Once again we reach that question and answer scenario where clever clogs smart ass JAZZA Rignall puts on his special answering trousers and replies to all of your queries. If you've got a question that you simply must have answered, why not write in? Any question - or questions - will do, as long as they're reasonable, and Jaz will always find the answer. That's why he's a clever clogs smart ass. The address to write to is: **HERE'S A FEW QUESTIONS FOR SMARTY PANTS JAZZA, Q+A, MEAN MACHINES, PRIORY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON, EC1R 3AU.**

SHED SOME LIGHT

Dear Jaz,
I have some questions to ask about the Gameboy.

1. Is it worth getting the light and magnifier for the Gameboy?

2. How much do they cost?



importers in the UK?

3. Does the Japanese Super Famicom and its games come with English instructions?

Please help me as I am keen to get a Famicom.

Alastair Bowden, Alton, Hants

JAZ: What a trio of ruddy awkward questions. Right, the American Super Famicom, when it's launched in the US in November, won't be compatible with Japanese machines. It won't work on UK TV sets unless it's specially modified, and since making the modifications is expensive, that means it'll cost the same as Japanese Super Famicoms. Although Japanese Super Famicoms come with Japanese instructions, some importers do translate them into English - ask your dealer about it.

ELASTIC INTELLECT

Yol

I'm getting a Megadrive but before I do I want to stretch your intellect by these questions

1. Will a SCART or PAL Megadrive work on an Amstrad 664 (the monitor for the CPC)?

2. Can you get Tetris on the Megadrive?

3. Are official prices going to go down?

4. Will the American Game Gear machine work with English carts?

5. Will the new American Lynx work with the old games?

6. In America how much are Game Gears and the games?

7. Why don't you do reviews on the PC Engine, Game Gear, Lynx, PC Engine GT Express? Is it because three of them aren't official releases, but then why do you review Super Famicom games?

P Roberts

JAZ: Sp-a-a-a-ang! My intellect has been well and truly stretched with those veritable posars, I don't think. 1. No. 2. A version of the game did appear briefly at the beginning of 1990, but it wasn't official and legal action resulted in it being withdrawn from the market. 3. I should think so - keep watching. 4. Yes. 5. Yes. 6. About £89 and games are about £17. 7. For the last time, MEAN MACHINES is a

SUPER FAMICOM QUESTIONS

Dear Jaz

Could you please answer these questions for the Super Famicom.

1. When is Super Ghouls 'n' Ghosts released?

2. Is Strider and Konami's Thundercross coming out?

3. Is there going to be a separate Nintendo magazine like the one you've made for the Sega?

4. Is there going to be a Complete Guide to Consoles 5?

5. How much would a PCB board cost for Ghouls 'n' Ghosts, Strider and Street Fighter II?

6. What is the maximum megabytes a SF cart can hold?

Thank you for answering my desperate questions.

Harmest Jandu, Glasgow

JAZ: Super Ghouls 'n' Ghosts won't be out soon enough for me! It's a completely fantastic - check out the new pages and see what I mean. Neither Strider nor Thundercross will ever appear on the Super Famicom.

I'd certainly like to make a Nintendo only mag - keep your legs crossed... The Complete Guide is no more, but there'll be plenty of other stuff coming out which will be miles better than the Guide ever was. PCBs are expensive - Ghouls 'n' Ghosts and Strider cost around £200, but Street Fighter II would set

Sega and Nintendo magazine. That's why we don't cover them, OK?

MORE SUPER FAMISTUFF

Dear Jaz,

I own a Super Famicom and I would like you to answer a few questions.

1. Is Street Fighter or II or III coming out on the Super Famicom?

2. When is the CD-ROM coming out?

3. And is US Navy (better known in the UK as Carrier Airwing - JAZ) coming out for the Super Famicom?

James Herrington, London

JAZ: It looks like Street Fighter II will be out on the Super



you back a whopping £800 - and then you'd need a £500 cabinet to play them on! Lastly, a Super

Famicom cartridge can hold up to 2 megabytes of information.

Famicom in February next year - something I'm very much looking forward to. The wait for the CD-ROM should be over by Christmas. As far as I know, Carrier Airwing won't be appearing on the Super Famicom. However, an enhanced version of UN Squadron will be out in July - and that should be brilliant!

FLOG NEO GEO FOR SUPER FAMICOM

Dear Jaz,

I am an unfortunate owner of a Neo Geo who is on the verge of parting with it for the dazzling

Super Famicom, but before I decide I would be grateful if you could help me make the right choice by answering a few questions of mine:

1. Is Street Fighter any good or even arcade perfect on the Neo-Geo?

2. Will the Neo Geo or its games ever come down in price?

3. Will the Super Famicom ever come down to the promised price of £200?

Robert Doinneau and Aston Parker, Woolwich, London

JAZ: It's not actually a conversion of the Street Fighter coin-op - it's something completely different which doesn't look much cop. The Neo Geo and its software don't look like they'll ever come down in price. The Super Famicom and its software will, though.

Q+A



QUESTION CITY, ARIZONA

Dear Jaz,

1. In Guide to Consoles II Paul Glancey reviewed a game called Blaster Master and gave it an overall mark of 93%. Has it been released yet? If it has I must have been asleep. No one I know has ever heard of it.

2. Is Megaman harder than Megaman II? I got to the third part of Doc Wily's level in four days.

3. What is your opinion of Bayou Billy?

4. What are the top TV shows of each of the MM team?

5. Anyone insane enough to buy my heap of junk called an Amstrad CPC 464? I'd even settle with swapping it for a Super Famicom or Megadrive.

6. I had £150 and could have bought a Megadrive or saved for a Super Famicom but I blew it on a Gameboy and three games for my NES. Do you know the address of a good shrink? I must be mad!

7. Where can I get special thinking trousers to stop question 7 from happening again?

8. Gimme your Famicom, I beg you!

Anon, Hereford

JAZ: 1. Shortly after we reviewed Master Blaster, Nintendo decided not to release it in Britain. A shame really, because it's a superb game. 2. I

think that Megaman is actually harder than Megaman II! 3. Bayou Billy is quite a neat little game, combining racing and beat 'em up action, and would get around 80% if we reviewed it in MEAN MACHINES. 4. Matt likes Film 91, Oz always watches Beverly Hills 90210, Gary likes the News and Antique Roadshow (what a boring git) and I'm an avid viewer of The Simpsons, 21 Jump Street and Twin Peaks (amongst other things). 5. I very much doubt it. 6. I don't understand - what do you need shrinking? 7. You need the special trousers selling men who wear special selling trousers - but he's out of town at a special trousers seller's convention selling special trousers. 8. Fog off.

GAME GEAR GUIDELINES

Dear Jaz,

For my birthday I got a Sega Game Gear plus these games

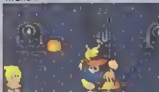


Mickey Mouse, Wonderboy, and Super Monaco GP please could you answer these questions:

1. When it is officially released, will the English carts be compatible with my Japanese machine?

2. Is it true that an adaptor is being made to allow you to play Master System games on it?

3. Will you be reviewing the Game Gear games?
Jason Lawes, Chatham, Kent
JAZ: Yea, yea and as from next month.



HOW GOOD?

Dear Jaz,

I am a great fan of sports games and beat 'em ups, and am thinking of buying some. What do you think of these Megadrive games?

1. Shadow Dancer
2. Tongue of the Fatman
3. Strider
4. Ringside Angels
5. Super Volleyball

Also now that Kick Off is going to be released on the Super Famicom, does that mean that there is no chance of it appearing on the Megadrive?

Pat, Northampton



JAZ: I don't like Shadow Dancer much - it's nowhere near as good as Revenge of Shinobi. Fatman has superb graphics, excellent sprite animation and fun gameplay, but unfortunately lacks lasting appeal due to the fact that it's fairly easy to beat all the opponents. Strider is one of the best coin-op conversions available on the Megadrive. Ringside Angels is a laugh, but doesn't sustain long-term interest in one-player mode, and Super Volleyball is a good-looking, but ultimately boring simulation of the sport which suffers from a limited control method and lack of variety in the gameplay.

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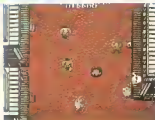
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NINTENDO

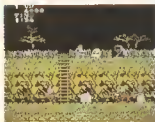
GUNSMOKE

Here's a neat little trick that will sure come in handy when fighting those pesky bandits in the Wild West. When the title screen appears, press A four times, SELECT four times, RIGHT twice and then START. You'll now be the proud owner of a machine gun with three hundred bullets! Thanks to Sean O'Hare of Belfast for that convenient tip.



GHOSTS 'N GOBLINS

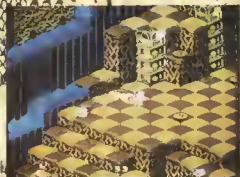
Sean O'Hare of Belfast has discovered a great stage SELECT teatime for this game. When the title screen appears, press DOWN RIGHT on the pad while pressing B three times. Next press and release UP, hit B again three times, then press and release DOWN and B three times again. Now hit START and use the A and B buttons to SELECT the stage at which you want to begin the game!



SNAKE RATTLE 'N ROLL

Mark Watkins of Clacton, Essex, has discovered two secret warps in this whimsical game. On level one there are two tongue icons. The second is opposite a single block standing in the water; jump on it and keep pressing the fire button as if it were a dustbin lid. The snake will now be sucked in and a message reads "Warp to level 3".

The second warp is on level 3. There are two nibbly pibbly dispensers near to the exit door. Collect the clockwork key icon to enable you to jump to the dustbin lid which is adjacent to the highest nibbly pibbly dispenser. Now you're warped to level 5 - good luck!



USER



FRIENDLY

Wah-hay! Wah-hoo! Wah-hay! It's tip-o-rama time, and here we got a pile of super duper cheats for you - just feast your eyes! If you've got anything to help fellow gamers, write in. Cheats, hints, tips, complete solutions, maps - anything will do! Send them to: MEAN MACHINES TIPS, MEAN MACHINES, PRIORY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON, EC1R 3AU. There's a prize of £150.00 worth of amazing console software for the sender of the month's best tips - this month Brian Wheeler of Port Talbot atrolia away with the goodies. Next month it could all be yours...





BAYOU BILLY

David Beardsell of Northwich, Cheshire, has sent in handy info about this relatively obscure game. Go to the practice levels before starting the game, because after completing the three levels there the reward is a Meat Ball, Free Life, and extra bullets.



GAME BOY

GARGOYLE'S QUEST

This popular Gameboy cart has proved no problem to Dermen Nye of Bracknell, Berkshire. He's sent codes for all the sections of the game.

B44Y 55i8

This takes you to the first village 'with the Nial Telsman x 2, and Vials x 5.

T6V5 Y5EH

This takes you to the first village with the Gremlin stick. Poltergeist candle and blockbuster magic, plus Telsman x 2 and Vials x 1.

HRTD HKFQ

This gives you Dragon Armour, Telsman x 2 and Vials x 1.

CK4I RPM

The same as above but further on in the game. Telsman x 2 and Vials x 2.

B6GQ D7G5

Gives ductile armour, wing power and blockbuster magic. Telsman x 1 and Vials x 7.

9Q7Y ITSX

Gives the candle of darkness. Telsman x 3 and Vials x 6.

QQUE 5WEA

This takes you to the last village, with Telsman x 4 and Vials x 27.

MERCENARY FORCE

Hold down buttons A and B with SELECT, then press UP, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT, then you'll have YEN 50,000 instead of YEN 5000 which is handy for buying energy. Gratefully received from Nicholas Stevens of Shoeburyness, Essex.

PIPE DREAM

Martin Hills of Sittingbourne, Kent has completed this tab puzzle game and has been kind enough to send in the codes. There are as follows:

STAGE 5: HAH

STAGE 9: GRIN

STAGE 13: REAP

STAGE 17: SEED

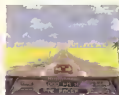
STAGE 21: GROW

STAGE 25: TALL

STAGE 29: VALI

RAD RACER

When the car selection screen comes up, press START, then look at the speedometer (above the 'distance covered' indicator). Pressing B adds two coloured squares to the speedometer, and every extra hit of the button will add a further two squares. Each set of squares indicates levels one to eight. When you've got the stage you want, press UP, RIGHT and START at the same time. Now you'll start at the level you selected. If you lose and want to remain at that level, wait until the display screen appears then press A and START together to start at the beginning of that level. This convoluted tip was sent by David Richardson of Speen, Berkshire!



SOLOMON'S KEY

Northern Ireland seems to be a stronghold of Nintendo owners! Dominic Kelly of Belfast has sent in this info. On level three, create a block on the top right corner then destroy it to gain an extra life.

If you hit one of the three jewels with Dana's Wand, a blue object appears. Collect it to get a fire ball!





AFTERBURNER II

To choose the starting level, press and hold A, B, and C then press START. This should be done on the second intro screen (the one with START and OPTION). If you do this correctly the aircraft carrier comes UP with Stage SELECT. Move the joystick LEFT or RIGHT to SELECT, then press START. Thanks to Daniel Gibbons of Hatfield, Hertfordshire for this!



MAGICAL FLYING HAT TURBO ADVENTURE



HIPOTION

Gives a higher jump for 10 seconds.

SPOTION

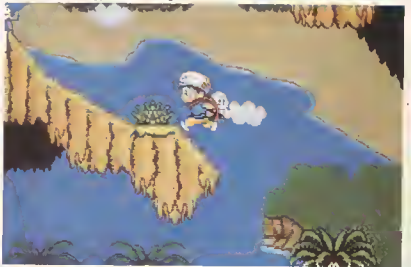
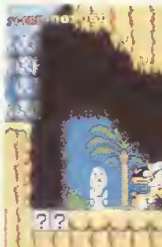
Gives a longer punch for 10 seconds.

BLUE/RED PILL

Changes the hero to either a helicopter or submarine with full shields for 10 seconds, providing he's got the egg with him.

YELLOW/RED PILL

Turns our hero into an invincible cat robot, armed with a cannon, for 15 seconds. Can only be used on end of level guardians. No egg's needed though.



MUSHA ALESTE

Raymond Fu of London SE1 has sent in some useful tips for this shoot 'em UP.

FOUR POWER UPS

Pause the game then press B, B, C, B, B, C, UP, DOWN, A.

FIVE EXTRA LIVES

Pause the game and press RIGHT, DOWN, RIGHT, DOWN, LEFT, UP, LEFT, UP, B, C, A.

TWENTY SPECIAL WEAPONS

Pause the game and press UP three times, DOWN three times, LEFT three times, RIGHT three times. O, C, B, A.



TIPS



AMBITIONS OF CAESAR

Having trouble getting past the first stage of this rather strange strategy game? Well, Steven Cain of Chingford, London has sent in a code for the next part. Just enter L3 F H P O Z N G W.



MASTER SYSTEM

SECRET COMMAND

A Jenkins of Longlevens, Gloucester, finds this a bit too difficult, but has discovered a tip to make things easier. In the two player game, you can continue from level three by rapidly pressing button 1 and moving the pad from left to right repeatedly at high speed. This is best done with a control stick and rapid fire unit.

TEDDY BOY

To get to the option screen press UP, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT. Do this twice. The Fire On/Off option determines whether or not the floor will give way. When you die go back to the option screen and select CONTINUE B YES. Cheers to Stevan Cain of Chingford, London for that.

AMERICAN PRO FOOTBALL

Want a near-perfect defence? Then follow this tip from A Jenkins of Longlevens, Gloucester. Select the goal line tactic and position the man under control to intercept a pass. This way, the men will stop a run and the controlled man is always ready to catch the ball. It's often possible to get a touchdown out of this defence as well!





Here's a veritable mound of Ghostbusting tips for this Sega classic from Brien Wheeler of Port Talbot. At the beginning of the game you're given the option to start or continue. Using the directional pad, move the cursor to continue and press button 1. You're asked for initials. Pushing button 1, enter AA as your initials. The screen will then ask you to enter a ten-digit number. Enter 1173468723 and push button 1. You now begin the game with \$1,975.88 instead of \$10,000.

PREPARATION

Selecting your car. Use the pink arrow displayed to the left of the cars to choose desired car. Using the directional pad, move the arrow next to desired car and press button 1 to advance to the shop.

| SELECT YOUR CAR | | CREDIT \$10000 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ECONOMY SLOW 6 ITEMS \$2000 |  | COMMON FAST 11 ITEMS \$6000 |
| REARSE NORMAL 5 ITEMS \$4500 |  | SPORTS FASTEST 8 ITEMS \$12000 |
| PUSH BUTTON | | |

RECOMMENDED CAR




Common Holds Eleven Tools and costs only \$6,000

EQUIPMENT

Using the directional pad, move the forklift up or down to the desired tool. Press button 1 to pick up the tool and turn the forklift around. Press on lower right corner of the directional pad to move forklift with tool toward your vehicle. Press button 1 to unload the tool. Repeat process until all tools are loaded, then press button 2 to start busting ghosts!

TOOLS

GHOST BAIT
HIGH CAPACITY TRAP
LASER CONFINEMENT SYSTEM
SUPER ANION BEAM
SUPER GHOST VACUUM

| CAPTURE EQUIPMENT | | CREDIT \$5200 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| PK ENERGY DETECTOR \$400 |  | |
| MARSHMALLOW SENSOR \$300 |  | |
| IMAGE INTENSIFIER \$500 |  | |
| PARTS 00 | | |

GHOSTBUSTERS

The Ghost Bait is a must for use against the Marshmallow Man in the first part of the game, as described later.

The Ghost Trap or High Capacity Trap is used to capture the ghosts in the first part of the game. The Laser Confinement System eliminates the necessity to go back to Ghostbuster Headquarters to empty your traps (giving you more time to bust ghosts). The Super Anion Beam makes your Ion Beams last considerably longer, so trips back to Ghostbuster Headquarters to replenish beam power are fewer. The Super Ghost Vacuum enables you to suck up stray ghosts as you drive along. You will have plenty of money and room in your car to buy and experiment with various tools, so have fun with them!

STAGE ONE

THE MAP

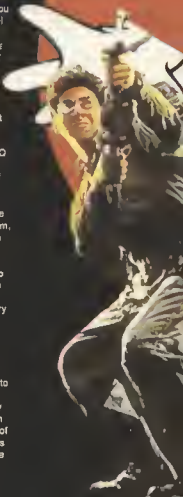
Once you have finished shopping, the next screen you encounter is the Map screen. This screen is an aerial view of the city. At the top right of the map is a place labeled "Shop". This is where you purchase additional tools. In the lower left corner is a place labeled "GHC" (Ghostbuster Headquarters). It is necessary to return here for the following reasons:

- To restore men when you have only one left.
- To restore men aimed trying to trap ghosts.
- To empty traps when they become full of ghosts (not necessary with the Laser Confinement System).
- To restore Ion Beam power.

You are the Ghostbuster symbol located beside GHO. Also on the map are yellow ghosts. You cannot capture these ghosts in the Map screen. However, if you touch them with your blue Ghostbuster symbol, they freeze and you'll have prevented them from getting into Zile. You also see two small figures, The Gatekeeper and The Keymaster. Avoid touching them, as they deduct money from your account! When you see a block on the map start to blink, immediately head for it with your Ghostbuster symbol. When you are beside the appropriate block, it stops blinking. To enter the block, press and hold the directional pad in the direction of the block while pushing button 1 simultaneously. It's not easy, so be sure to press very accurately on the directional pad!

THE STREET

If you have done the above correctly, the screen changes to a street, and your car speeds toward the building inhabited by ghosts. As you drive you face obstacles in the road, as well as other cars. Be sure to avoid them as you destroy your car if you hit them. You automatically receive another car but the money is deducted from your account and it delays you from getting to the building. In the lower right hand corner of the screen there will be a number followed by the letters "KM". This indicates the number of kilometres you are from the building with the ghosts. The larger the



number, the further away you are, and the more likely the ghosts will be gone by the time you reach the building. Please note: if you move around a lot in the map screen, this adds mileage in the street screen, so try to stay as still as possible and wait for a block to blink on the map screen.

When you travel down the street you see ghosts floating over the street. You can vacuum up the ghosts by pressing one of the buttons. When you reach the building with ghosts, your car automatically pulls over to the right side of the screen.

BUSTING GHOSTS

Once your car has pulled over to the side of the street, your men will automatically exit the car. Using the directional pad, position the Ghostbusters (while holding trap) under the floating ghosts: press button 1 to drop the trap. This freezes Ghostbuster 1 (on the right side) and using the directional pad you are able to position Ghostbuster 2 (on left side). When 2 is positioned, press button 1 again and you are able to position 1 in the same manner.

When both are in position, press button 2 to start the Ion Beams. Try to trap the ghosts between these beams. To do this use button 1 and directional pad as described above to alternately move each Ghostbuster toward trap with ghosts between enclosed between beams. When ghosts are over trap between beams, press button 2 to release and trap and catch them. If you don't have the Super Anion Beam, you only have 60-70 seconds to do this, otherwise you have ample time. When all the ghosts are trapped, your men return to the car and the map screen pops up again.

If you do not have a High Energy Trap or a Laser Containment System, you have to return to GHQ to empty your trap.

SEGA TIPS



秘技

GHOST BAIT

In the upper left corner of the map screen is a long bar labeled "PK Energy Meter." This meter changes from blue to yellow to red as the city gets more overrun with ghosts. As the energy meter starts to turn red, you're faced with a nasty surprise! The Marshmallow man appears and stomps on your city blocks, which results in a loss of \$4000 from your account. This is when you want to use your Ghost Bait.

When you see four ghosts turn green and start to form the Marshmallow Man, instantly press button 2 to release some bait. Not only does this prevent the Marshmallow Man from forming, but it also adds \$2000 to your account.

STAGE TWO



THE MARSHMALLOW MAN

In order to continue on in the game and face the Marshmallow Man, two events must occur simultaneously. You must have \$10000 in your account when your PK Energy Meter turns fully red. When this happens, you automatically go to the Temple Of Zule and the Marshmallow Man.

When confronting the Marshmallow Man, you need only get two of your three men past him. To get by him, place your men to the right of the Marshmallow Man on the right side of the pillar. As the Marshmallow Man bounces to the left, quickly push on the upper left corner of the directional pad to sneak past him.

STAGE THREE

STAIRS OF ZULE

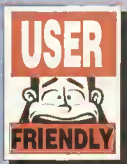
The Rosmers are pretty easy to bust. Watch out for the Slimers along the stairs. When you try to bust the Slimers, you must anticipate their moves. If they look like they are coming at you - shoot!

STAGE FOUR

BUSTING GORZA

The best way to fight Gorza is to face your men opposite him. If he is located on the left hand of the screen, your men should be on the right side. As he comes across to your side, move your men to the other side, but keep shooting as you cross over. It takes five to six shots to kill Gorza. Move side to side and keep firing. Gorza is armed with deadly laser beams, so watch out! Also, Gorza is worth \$5000.





Stuck in a dungeon? Got an end-of-level boss you can't destroy? Can't find a special potion? Well, here's where your gaming problems can be solved. The Tips Helpline is a column where you can write in and ask for advice to help you get through those areas where you are completely and utterly stuck. So if you're having bit-ig hassles, write to JAZZA'S TIPS HELPLINE, MEAN MACHINES, PRIORY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGDON LANE, LONDON, EC1R 3AU and I'll sort it all out.

Oh, by the way. When you write in, don't just say "I'm stuck in Snake, Rattle and Roll (or whatever), please help me". I need to know what your exact problem is, otherwise I won't be able to answer! Okay? The other thing - I don't do personal replies, not even with an SAE. Sorry about that, but it did, I'd spend so much time writing letters I wouldn't be able to do the magazine! And then you wouldn't have anything at all (and I wouldn't have a job), and my Mad cat would go hungry...



MEGA SOLAR PROBLEMS

Dear Jaz,

Please can you help me, I am completely stumped with two games I bought recently, Megamen 2 and Solar Jetman.

Firstly, I cannot lift anything off the second planet in Solar Jetman after completing the first one quite easily. Please advise if possible. My second problem is the big jump in the Dr Wily section of Megamen 2. I have got all the weapons, etc. These problems are croaking me up. Hope your brilliance can help me out.

T Leighton, Chesterfield

JAZ: In Solar Jetman, lifting items up an level two is exactly the same process as level one. The only difference is that the gravity is much stronger. As for Megamen 2, I admit it's a pretty long jump, but the trick is not to try and jump it at all. Use the special flying platform items given to you by Dr Wily. It takes a bit of practice, but if you've got that far into the game it shouldn't be that difficult.

MEGADRIVE MISERY

Jaz,

1. Can you please tell me how to get past the three end-of-level battles on Moonwalker stage 5-2. I have tried dance magic and the flying hat but just cannot kill them.

2. In Revenge of Shinobi, how do you kill Spidman on level 5-3. I always get caught in a web, and when I eventually hurt him the bat appears, I always die.

3. Ok, I'm crap, but how do you kill the eye monster at the end of level 2 in Altered Beast.

J K Barr, Leek Staffs

JAZ: On Moonwalker, the tougher end-of-level bosses are best dealt with by not using dance or hat magic at all. Instead, save your energy for

the hits you're likely to sustain. Use your hands and feet to dispose of these fiends, but remember that magic travels further the longer you leave it. So, rapid fire isn't necessarily so effective. As for Revenge of Shinobi, save your ninja magic for the bat as he's far more deadly. Spidman's webs can be avoided by jumping at the right time. He does use a pattern so it shouldn't be too much of a problem to guess when he starts spinning. If you're a real spaz and still can't do it, locate one of the 2-UP icons on an earlier level and stock up on your lives (do to make the icon re-appear). Now use Mijin Ninj magic repeatedly to knockb Spidey. Altered Beast's second level battle is a cinch. Simply use your dragon's shield to repel the eyeball onslaught and whilst he's pausing for breath let him have it!

SEGA R-TYPE SECRET LEVEL

Dear Jaz,

In issue 7 of MEAN MACHINES you reviewed R-Type on the Sega. Since then I have been trying to find the secret level that you mentioned. Please, please could you tell me where the entrance is. David Knibbs, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

JAZ: Look out for two holes at the top of the screen in the middle of level four. Simply fly up the right-hand hole to be teleported to the secret level. Easy, eh?

BUBBLE BOBBLE BLATTING

Dear Jaz,

I'm stuck on Bubble Bobble where I meet the big creature who spits five missiles at me. I've tried

everything and I cannot beat him. Please help me on my favourite Nintendo game. I hope you can help.

Greg Albright, Torquay, Devon

JAZ: This is one of those problems that demands skill more than anything else. Still, if you've battled your way to this point in the game you should have the necessary abilities to avoid his missiles and aim your bubbles at his head. There is no safe point on this screen. Just keep moving to avoid those missiles and get those bubbles in.

EXTRA LIVES FOR FINAL FIGHT

Dear Jaz,

I have recently sold my old Nintendo and games and bought a Super Famicom with Super Mario World and Final Fight. The thing is in the Final Fight manual it shows a screenshot of an options screen but I can't find out how to get to this. Could you please tell me how to get to it?

Mr Anonymous, Somersham, Cambs

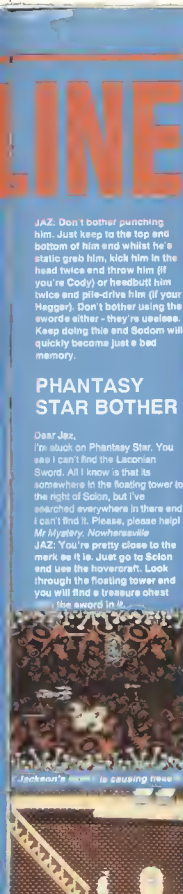
JAZ: Often looking at the Japanese symbols in these manuals gives away what you're supposed to press. In the Final Fight manual you'll see a symbol that looks a lot like the L button that's on the top of the Famicom joystick. So, hold this button down and start the game as normal. You'll now be whisked to the options screen.

FAMICOM SODOMY

Dear Jaz,

I am unable to defeat Sodomy on Final Fight on the Super Famicom. I have tried all of your tips, but still can't kill him.

Bruce Darlington, South Wirral



MEAN MACHINES MEGAPLAYERS

Here's where you see gamesplayers can offer you service and become an honorary MEAN MACHINES Megaplayer. Other readers can write to you and ask for information on games that you know inside out. If you write to a Megaplayer, don't forget to include a stamped addressed envelope! It's nice enough for these people to put their names forward to help you - it's a bit of a cheek asking them to pay to send you a reply!

MEGADRIVE

Ah! A Megadrive Megaplayer! If you've got yourself into a fix on ESWAT, DJ Boy, Golden Axe, Final Blow, Super Shinobi, Super Real Baseball, World Championship Soccer or Mi Komatsu, write to Jacob Kennedy, 74 Edmond Road, Chiswick, London, W4 1JF.

Alan Fretz is a Megadrive player par excellence. He knows Golden Axe, Moonwalker, Rambo III, Batman, Forgotten Worlds. Write to him at 1 Huntslop Cott, Brunelwood Road, Deesport, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 6RT.

If you're a Megadrive player in dire straits, why not get into contact with Paul Brasen, 60 Playford Road, Erith, Kent, DA8 1NL. He's an expert on Ghosts n' Ghosts, Thunderforce III, Psycho Fox, Gparallion Wolf, Super Real Baseball, World Games, Forgotten Worlds and Strider.

Paul Heselden stresses that he is a truly star player who's willing to give any tips on Ghosts n' Ghosts, Super Shinobi, Altered Beast, Thunderforce III, ESWAT and Forgotten Worlds. Write to him at 2 Ilikation Road, Stapleford, Notts, NG8 5JL.

If Forgotten Worlds, World Soccer, Super Monaco GP, Super Hang-On or Altered Beast are giving you hassle, write to John Kaye, 3 Brookfield, Penlions Road, Knebworth, Huddersfield, W Yorkshire, HG8 GPE.

"I'm a mege, mege, mege cool dude" reckons Danny Crystal and reckons he'll give red hot tips to anyone stuck on Moonwalker, Super Shinobi, Shadow Dancer, DJ Boy, Mickey Mouse, Wonderboy III, Cyberball, Alex Kidd, ESWAT, Super Real Baseball, World Soccer, Ghostbusters and Strider. Interested? Then write to him at 20 Meeth Close, St Mary Clay, Gillingham, Kent, BR8 2HF.

Need help on Ghostbusters, Golden Axe, Forgotten Worlds, Super Hang-On, Arnold Palmer's Golf Striker, Flanagan of Shinobi, Ghosts n' Ghosts, Altered Beast, Populous, Last Battle, Space Harrier II, Truxton or Thunderforce III and I'll write to D Elio, Gweller Roseworthy, Cernmore Cornwall.

This guy has certainly played a lot of games and is offering help on Air Diver, Altered Beast, Budokan, Forgotten Worlds, Ghosts n' Ghosts, Golden Axe, Insector X, Moonwalker, Mystic Gelande, Phantasy Star II, Populous, Rambo III, Super Shinobi, Space Harrier II, Target Earth, Truxton, Whip Rush and Zany Golf. He's Greg Martin of 8 Duchy Drive, Reilton, Paisley, Scotland, PA1 3BW.

SEGA MEGAPLAYERS

The games I've T Abou of 37 Blackwood Road, Siretly, W Midlands, B74 3PL, is offering help on ere Fantasy Zone I and II, Alex Kidd in Miracle World, Golden Axe, Psycho Fox, Spy Vs Spy, Double Dragon, Beakelbat Nightmare and Dead Angle

Michael Long from 104 Whalley Avenue, St Helens, Merseyside, WA1 0 6PS can help anyone stuck on Altered Beast, Vigilante, Golden Axe, Chase HQ, Double Dragon, Thunderblade, Hang-On, Wonderboy III, Satei Hunt, Merksman Shooting and Action Fighter.

Il Alex Kidd in Miracle World, Wonderboy II or III, Psycho Fox, Chase HQ, R-Type or Rampage are providing trouble, contact Thomas Vellow, 75 Genshaw Drive, Hasby, York, YO38 09

A pair of Sega games with help out on Sega games are Nigel Wykes and Steven Fowell who live at 64 Salisbury Road, Gressend, Kent, DA11 7DE. They're experts at RC Grand Prix, Vigilante, Dynamite Dux, Shinobi, Golden Axe, Double Dragon, Rastan, California Games, Enduro Recal, Chase HG, Pro Wrestling Kung-Fu Kid, Psycho Fox, Wonderboy III and Altered Beast

Carl Busby is a pretty good player. He specialised games are Alex Kidd and the Last Siers, Altered Beast, Spy Vs Spy, Beakelbat Nightmare, Psycho Fox, Pro Wrestling and Wonderboy III. If you need any help on those games, write to him at 293 Western Avenue, Acton, London, W3 6PP

If you're stuck on Y's, Spellcaster, Vigilante, Phantasy Star, Ghostbusters, Rambo III, Rampage, Alex Kidd in High-Tech World, Wonderboy II, I and III, Gahwells, Shinobi, Psycho Fox, Kung-Fu or RC Grand Prix, why not write to Mark Betts, Cobblers, Chapel Road, Lower Southapps, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1BW?

A Sega Master System Megaplayer who knows a wealth of games is Robert Williams of 42 Kenneth Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex, RM6 8LL. He knows Psycho Fox, Golden Axe, Rastan, R-Type, Wonderboy III, World Soccer, Shinobi, Thunderblade, Alex Kidd and the Last Siers, Dynamite Dux, Aztec Adventure, Outrun and California Games. If you're stuck on any of those games, why not write to him?

Any one who needs help on Beakelbat Nightmare, California Games, Golden Axe, Rastan, Shinobi, Vigilante, World Soccer, Super Tennis or Rescue Mission can write off to Paul Hanson,

37 Penhal Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 8GY

Calvin Holbrook of 3 Willson Road, Shearid, Isle of Wight, PO37 7DA is a Sega Megaplayer, and is offering advice to anyone who writes to him. He knows Wonderboy II, I and III, Alex Kidd in Miracle World, Ghost House, Phantasy Star and Alex Kidd in High-Tech World

If you're having hassle with any of these Sega titles: Afterburner, Outrun, Choplifter, Double Dragon, Captain Silver, Wonderboy II, Enduro Recal, Vigilante, Rampage, California Games, Muscle Warriors, Scramble Sprites, Mi Haxo, Fantasy Zone, Alex Kidd in Shinobi World or Global Defence, write to Hassan Said-Ude, 6 Caburn Road Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6EF.

Another Megaplayer volunteer is James Smith, 28 Belarques Road, Merthorough, East Lothian, Scotland. He's a whizz on the following sega games: Choplifter, Afterburner, Alex Kidd in High-Tech World, Rambo III, Double Dragon, Wonderboy, Bomber Raid and Kung-Fu Kid

NINTENDO MEGAPLAYERS

If you live in Berkshire or thereabouts, Peter Nightingale, 44 Melling Close, Lower Easly, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 2XN might have the answers you're looking for. He knows the following Nintendo games: Trojan, Super Mario Bros, Soccer, Tiger Talk, Xavious Arnwall and Skies or Glie

Nintendo players can ask Carl Busby to help. He knows Ghosts n' Goblins, Megaman, Balloon Fight, Rhyer, Super Mario II, Excitebike and Balmin. Write to him on the address above

Another Nintendo Megaplayer is John Molins of 64 Campana Close Rowlettia Hill, Rowlettia Hill, Leicester, LE5 4EX. He's an expert on Super Mario Bros I and II, Balmin, Cobie Triangle, Pro Wrestling, Trick and Field II, Gunsmoke, Life Force, Rush n' Attack, Tennis and Gradius

Paul Brown of 97 Windmill Hill, Enfield, Middx EN2 7AJ is offering super tips and tips to anyone who writes to him concerning Bionic Commando, Blades of Steel, Bubble Bobble, Castlevania II, Simon's Quest, Double Dragon, Lee Trevino's Fighting Golf, Legend of Zoids, Megaman, Megaman II, Meli Gier, RC Pro Am, Super Mario Bros, Super Mario Bros II, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Taito, Tiger Hall and Zelds II.

Stuck on Legend of Zoids, Tiger Hall, Ninja Turtles, Arnwall, RC Pro AM, Cobie Triangle, Balmin or Ghost n' Goblins? Write to James Hutchinson at 57 Lord Avenue, Clayhall, Redbridge, Essex, IG8 0HN

Don't forget - and this is very important indeed - if you write to a Megaplayer, make sure you enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your reply, or you won't get one. Okay?



REVIEW

Strange shapes are rather popular on the consoles. Tetris and Columns have both been big hits, with their similar themes of falling shapes. Now a new game has arrived: Blockout. Unlike the other two, this is a three-dimensional game, with large lego-shapes tumbling from the heavens.

The three buttons control the spin of the block along its three axes, and the start button drops it into the bottom section. When an entire coloured level is completed it disappears leaving more room for the next blocks. As with Tetris, the blocks appear with increasing speed. The options allow either flat blocks (as in Tetris) or blocks with parts sticking out in all directions.

In two-player mode the screen splits as the players compete to finish a certain number of levels before the other person manages to do it. Of course, if the blocks reach the top of the pit then it's game over immediately!



THE FLAT
MULTI

▲ The very beginning of the game, on Flat Fun (easy) mode.

▲ The Options.

COMMENT



JULIAN

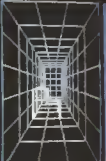
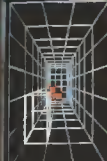
I didn't think much of Blockout when it was released on home computer format, but this Megadrive version has been tweaked and smoothed out to make it a highly enjoyable and very challenging puzzle game. It doesn't seem like it at first, though, since the awkward control method is difficult to get to grips with, and you constantly make frustrating mistakes. However, stick at it, and once you know all the moves the game suddenly becomes incredibly addictive! The icing on the cake is the brilliant two-player mode, which adds a new and very competitive aspect to the proceedings. In fact, I'd go so far to say that it's one of the best two-player head-to-head battles yet devised on the Megadrive! Although Blockout looks a bit boring, make sure you check it out when you see it - you'll be surprised as to just how good it is.



▲ Best to rotate this through the X axis.

OPTION OPTIONS

It's best to play Blockout with two players, as the challenge to beat someone else is better than just getting beyond a certain level. Other options let you increase or decrease the dimensions of the pit, determine the speed of the falling blocks and whether the blocks are flat or multi-surfaced. If you're after a ridiculous task, play the game on "Out of control" level; it's fantastically hard!



COMMENT

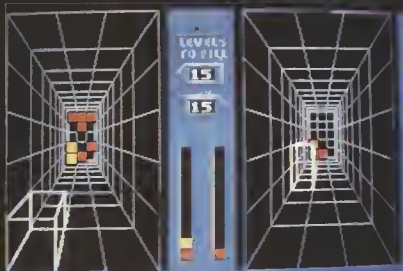


MATT

I didn't think this would be a patch on Columns, but call me a duff old codger if it isn't a lot better! Although it isn't as soothing as Columns (in fact it's downright infuriating), but the excellent 3D perspective gives it a new dimension (green) in play. The two-player mode tends to be a little less playable because of the lack of space on-screen, but it means that you can challenge a friend instead of just binging away at the computer. Don't be put off by the bland screenshots, this is a tentative game which every Megadrive owner should seriously consider buying.

Let the machine do the work! ▶

▼ The super two-player mode.



REVIEW



BY: EA

PRICE: £34.99

RELEASE DATE: JUNE

GAME DIFFICULTY: TRICKY

LIVES: N/A

CONTINUES: 0

SKILL LEVELS: 4

RESPONSIVENESS: FAST

1-2
PLAYERS



PRESENTATION 78%

A variety of different options let you vary the type of game and the level you start on, and there's also a superb two-player option.

GRAPHICS 85%

Clear, smooth and straightforward graphics display the action perfectly.

SOUND 78%

Great title tune and simple, but appropriate in-game effects.

PLAYABILITY 93%

It's not an easy job getting the hang of the controls, but once it's done the game's a joy to play.

LASTABILITY 90%

This kind of game is only limited by the player's abilities - you'll never beat it!

OVERALL 91%

A highly addictive one-player arcade puzzle game that also features one of the best two-player Megadrive challenges yet seen!



NINTENDO

REVIEW

Shadax, the hero of the game, searches through the fortress of Kastlerock for the Staff of Demnos which has been pinched by the nasty wizard Morbus, who's also satisfying his evil lusts with the captured Princess Eleanor.

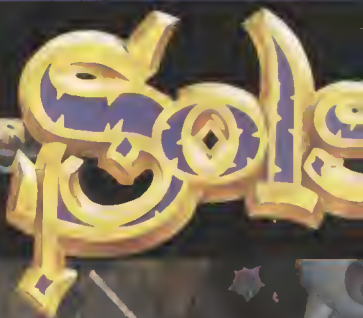
Solstice is a form of game very popular on home computers, but a relative stranger to consoles. It's an isometric 3D puzzle game where the central character moves from room to room, solving puzzles and avoiding monsters as he goes. Shadax jumps from platform to platform, shifts items around to climb on them and has access to spells and potions that have a variety of effects. Keys are likewise vital to get past those awkward locked doors.

With over 250 rooms, Solstice is no "finished in an afternoon" game. Expect to be trapped in the fortress for weeks to come!



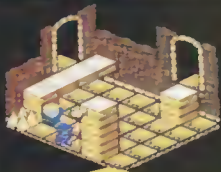
ISOMETRIC DISCOVERY

Keenware is a critical success story. Since 1984, they changed their name to Rare and went on to program such Nintendo classics as Snake, Rattle and Shake, RC Pro Am and Cobra Triangle) was the first ever isometric 3D computer game, appearing on the spectrum in 1984. It wowed computer fans everywhere with its "real world" environment where you could walk around the landscape and interact with items within it. Over the following years, many clones emerged - Head Over Heels, Alien 8, Batman being a very best - but eventually the genre became stale through a rough lack of new ideas. However, now the format has been revitalised for the console market - let's see if there are more gems in this mine!





Solstice



BLOCKS AND STUFF

Many of the rooms contain blocks and barrels that Shsdax moves around to complete a puzzle. There are also enemy creatures present in many of the rooms, who make it very difficult to move around safely. However, cunning use of blocks can halt their progress if Shsdax works out their patterns of movement.



COMMENT



JULIAN

I've always been a big fan of isometric 3D games, and am pleased to see this style of game on a console. Solstice is very much in the classic Knightlore mould, and transporting items from one location to another and avoiding traps and baddies is what it's all about. Swift reflexes are required in many situations, and you've also got to get your old grey matter into gear if you are to solve all the puzzles - some of them are very davious! With over 250 screens, great graphics and some of the best music and sound effects I've heard in a Nintendo game, this is a must for arcade adventure fiends looking for a long-lasting challenge!

NINTENDO



REVIEW

KEEP AHEAD

There are many items to collect, and getting them is never straightforward. One of the first objects is the magic boots, which are perched atop a tower surrounded by a floor covered with spikes and guarded by a baddie. Shadax can't reach it by jumping, so how does he do it? Well, drop a block onto the baddie's head, jump on top of the baddie and wait until he walks near to the tower. Jump off and grab the boots! It's easy when you know how.



▲ He needs something else to stand on.



▲ Cosmetic boots!

COMMENT



▲ Eleanor needs rescuing!

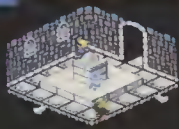


MATT

Another thing: the blurb claims this is a "non-violent" game, which is true in the sense that Shadax can't kill anybody, but as every monster in the game brings instant death on contact it's hardly violence-free. Still, that aside, this is a challenging game with great graphics and moody, atmospheric sound (which puzzle fans should find interesting).



▲ The man with the hat gets upset.



▲ Use blocks to evade capture.



Solstice



BY: NINTENDO
PRICE: £39.99

RELEASE DATE: JULY
GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM
LIVES: 5
CONTINUES: D
SKILL LEVELS: 1
RESPONSIVENESS: QUICK

PRESENTATION 89%

The intro screens and music are spooky in the extreme!

GRAPHICS 88%

Well drawn and nicely detailed 3D graphics with many neat touches.

SOUND 93%

The stunning music provides lots of atmosphere, and the effects are brilliant too!

PLAYABILITY 86%

Solving each puzzle takes lateral thinking, but sometimes the enemies move too fast for comfort!

LASTABILITY 84%

There are an enormous number of rooms, giving loads of long-lasting puzzle-solving for fans of the genre.

OVERALL 85%

A clever arcade adventure that tests both your reflexes and your mental abilities. A must for puzzle fanatics.



Ultraman is pretty famous in Japan. He's been the star of several motion pictures in the Far East and the plot of each is remarkably similar. Usually a massive ten-storey high reptilian/robot is causing a bit of eggro to some poor defenceless normal-sized humans. Thankfully, Ultramen's around and he uses his various Ultra-powers to beat the living daylights out of these vindictive creatures.

These water-thin plots and the ooh-ehh kung-fu action have been captured perfectly in this Super Famicom cart. The action is displayed in horizontally-scrolling side-on-o-vision, with Ultraman strutting the parallax landscape dishing out Ultra-violence to the massive foes.

Ultraman has four Ultra-powers that come in handy for wearing down the enemies' energy bars. When it comes to finally dispatching them, the mysterious fourth-power (mounted in Ultra-Man's metallic shirt-sleeves) is used to blast them into oblivion.

But there are ten evil monstrosities awaiting our metallic hero.



▲ The mean, strutting Ultraman - in combat!

ULTRA



COMMENT



I'm a big fan of those utterly dire Japanese monster films, and am pleased to see that Ultraman captures all their cheesy crapiness. The sprites are superbly animated, and all the monsters look as though they're made out of rubber - just like the "real" things! The music and effects are perfect for this type of game, with tunes that sound like

JULIAN

they're right out of a creepy 60's movie and hopeless sampled monster noises! However, while the visuals and sonics are great, the gameplay is rather limited. It's very challenging, I'll admit, but Ultraman can't do many fighting moves and therefore some might find the game becomes dull fairly quickly. A two-player mode would have helped prolong its lasting appeal. If you're an ardent beat 'em up fan, Ultraman is worth looking at - while it certainly doesn't make any sort of use of the Super Famicom's fantastic hardware, it nevertheless provides plenty of laughs and challenge for anyone who wants to kick the bottoms of massive rubber monsters!

FAMICOM REVIEW

集時生

ULTRAMAN



RUBBER-SUIT MARAUDERS

Some of the greatest ten-storey warriors in Ultraman's TV show and movie have made their way into this Super Famicom conversion. The graphics and animation on each are excellent. They really do look like men in rubber suits!



BEMULAR

PAUSE



The first meanie is predictably simple. Some fire-breathing causes problems but that's about it.



TELEDSON

PAUSE



Head butts, fire-breathing and tail-swinging combine to make Teledson your first real challenge.



ULTRA-POWER

With the aid of the controller's green button, and Ultraman's capacious laser-spitting cuffs, the monstrous aliens get various forms of laser-death in this game. However, these weapons require energy, and the energy bar builds up quite slowly during the game. It's also worth remembering that you're going to need full Ultra-power to finish off the baddie at the end of the level.



SHIELD

This barrier of pure Ultra-energy absorbs the fire-breathing attacks of the Godzilla-likes, and reflects the laser attacks of the more lethal foes. It uses energy though, and a quick jump out the way does much the same job.



SL - SLASH

The bog-standard form of laser-attack. This uses little energy and inflicts only small amount of damage. Virtually useless against the majority of Ultraman's foes.

AT ATTACK



These hoop-like energy beams inflict double the damage of the laser, but they use far more energy and doesn't do anything a few good kicks will do just as well.

US ULTRA-S



These razor-sharp laser blades use up most of Ultraman's precious Ultra-power, and inflict a vast amount of damage. Unfortunately, later foes dodge these with ease.

SP - FINISH



This weapon finishes off Ultra-Man's foes once the FINISH prompt appears at the top of the screen. It uses up all of Ultra-Men's powers, but is essential for progress.



GOMORAH

PAUSE



Yet more tail-swinging fun here with Gomora, but watch out for his constrictor-like attack which squeezes the life out of Ultraman!



GERONIMON

PAUSE



Earthquake attacks and lying poisonous spines characterise Geronimon's evil line-up of attacks.



Z-TON

PAUSE



This final foe (and Ultraman's lethal nemesis) needs the full might of your magic, ooh-ah licks and fists before he eventually fails!

ULTRAMAN
THE CULT

Ultraman is one of the most popular cult figures in Japan. He has his own weekly TV show and has been the star of countless mega-tacky motion pictures. Comics, books and all sorts of other Ultra-merchandise are available on Far Eastern shores, and he's even had cameo roles in other games (including the abysmal Super Deformer Famicom game released earlier this year). At the time of writing, Ultraman is the top-selling game in Japan!

MEAN MACHINES

COMMENT



Ultraman is quite an entertaining game, but for all the wrong reasons! The graphics, gameplay and sounds are all laughably inadequate for a Super Famicom game, and yet

RICH

the action is strangely compelling. The graphics are accomplished and very well-animated, and the sound matches the tacky atmosphere, but I get the feeling that more could have been made of the licence. The simple beat 'em up action is entertaining, but when you're shelling out over forty quid for a game, a bit more is needed to warrant purchase. Avid beat 'em up fans may get their money's worth, but I'm going to be sticking with Final Fight for my beat 'em up requirements.



▲ A bad case of repellant breath.

ウルトラマン

空想特撮シリーズ

TRUSSARDI PRO BANDAI

BY: BANDAI

PRICE: £40.00

RELEASE DATE: IMPORT ONLY

GAME DIFFICULTY: EASY/MED

LIVES: 3

CONTINUES: 0

SKILL LEVELS: 3

RESPONSIVENESS: ULTRA



PRESENTATION 77%

Very tacky on the whole - just like the TV series!

GRAPHICS 81%

Excellent sprites, but pretty uninspiring backdrops

SOUND 79%

Laughable sound, but it makes the atmosphere that bit more tacky!

PLAYABILITY 79%

Easy to get into and quite addictive...

LASTABILITY 66%

...but there are only ten foes and the basic gameplay doesn't vary much from one to the other.

OVERALL 77%

A thoroughly enjoyable and quite hilarious beat 'em up that doesn't have quite enough variety to be worth its large asking price.

CONSOLE PLUS

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Captain Falcon leads a bizarre kind of double-life. During the weekdays he earns his keep by capturing highly dangerous criminals and cashing in on the huge rewards. The weekend is spent participating in the F-Zero Championship - the fastest, deadliest set of races held on Nu-Earth.

It is this part of Captain Falcon's life that is captured on this Super Famicom cartridge. There are three leagues of F-Zero racing to participate in. The Knight, Queen and King Leagues offer five races of various difficulty, with the ultimate F-Zero champion being the person who comes first at the end of the King League.

There are twenty cars taking part in each race, but the real obstacle to success is the track itself. The courses are populated with all sorts of death-inducing hazards including mines, jumps, and magnetic energy draining poles. These all drain energy from your craft, and should you lose all of your energy you die in a massive explosion. However, to prolong your racing activities there is an energy pit-lane built into each course that is used to reclaim lost energy.

There are five laps per race and at the end of each, your craft is endowed with some nitro fuel. This is used to give your ship that bit of extra speed - but watch out as you can only carry three charges at a time!



LIKE DRIVING IN MY CAR

Although F-Zero centres around the high-speed antics of Captain Falcon, there exists the option to adopt the mantle of another character. Each character drives a different car, and each motorised steed has its own strengths and weaknesses:

GOLDEN FOX



ENGINE UNIT: GF-2614x4
MAX SPEED: 438km/h
WEIGHT: 1020kg
DRIVER: Dr Stewart

NOTES: The lightest car makes it the best for jumps. The Golden Fox also has the best acceleration and is merried only by awkward handling.

F-ZERO



ON THE RIGHT TRACKS

There are eight different tracks in F-Zero, each offering a different challenge to hardened drivers. Some tracks may be seen twice, or even three times during the game. For example, Death Wind crops up in both the Knight and Queen Leagues. However, on the higher difficulty level, new hazards, tester drivers, and even extensions to the track itself make the going that bit tougher.



REVIEW



MUTE CITY



This track is situated two miles above the surface of Mute City. A fairly straightforward circuit on all levels, but watch out for the jumps and the mines.

BLUE FALCON



ENGINE UNIT: BF-2001x4
MAX SPEED: 457km/h
WEIGHT: 1260kg
DRIVER: Captain Falcon

NOTES: The best all-round vehicle, with excellent acceleration and a good top-speed. Only its handling is average.

BIG BLUE



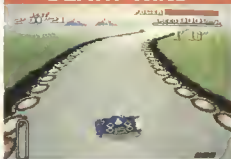
▲ Enjoy the scenery as you tackle this track which rests on the surface of a stunning ocean. This course is characterised by easy corners, but watch out for the ice.

◀ Tight hairpin corners and rough track make the desert track of Sand Ocean your first real problem. A ship with excellent cornering is recommended here.

SAND OCEAN



DEATH WIND



Set above a magnificent electro-sea, Death Wind is notable in that a powerful wind attempts to knock you off course. Make full use of the booster pads for a better lap time.

WILD GOOSE



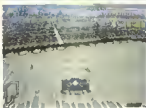
ENGINE UNIT: ES-8302x3
MAX SPEED: 462km/h
WEIGHT: 1620kg
DRIVER: Pico

NOTES: Pico the Reptilian's craft is probably the clumsiest craft on the circuit, and takes an age to recharge in the pit-lane. You won't be winning many races with this one.

COMMENT

If you've got a Super Famicom, F-Zero is one of the first games you can buy for it. Although it only takes you a week or so to complete the game, it's the taking part that's so enjoyable. Whizzing around the amazing 3D landscapes (there'll never, ever be anything to touch this graphically on the Amiga or Megadrive) is made all the more enjoyable because the handling of your car is so realistic. Ignite a turbo on a corner and you'll spend the next few seconds expending aimlessly the track, desperately attempting to regain control. It's simply so good to play that you'll be coming back months later for another go (I know, because I bought the game when it first came out and I'm still playing it!). F-Zero must be the definitive console racing game, and I look forward to the inevitable sequel!

RICH



▲ Welcome to the high-speed, high-casualty excitement of F-Zero.



FIRE STINGRAY



ENGINE UNIT RS-5025x2
MAX SPEED: 478km/h
WEIGHT: 1960kg
DRIVER: Samurel Gordon

NOTES: Blubber-boy Semursi's craft is the heaviest in the history of F-Zero, and thus makes it completely useless on jumps. Although it is the fastest ship, it suffers from very average acceleration but does have excellent handling.



One of the earliest (and easiest tracks) in the Knight League, by the time drivers reach the King League, they'll find a comprehensively revised and rather deadly course.

SUPER FAMICOM SUPER HARDWARE

The amazing 3D visuals in F-Zero are only possible because of the special hardware chips inside the Super Famicom. This chip can take any 2D image and twist it into 3D! So while most consoles (and computers) have to use a lot of their power creating a 3D landscape, the Super Famicom does it with little effort at all, meaning that the console can give more attention to the game itself rather than just the graphics. Similar 3D techniques are used in the graphically stunning Pilotwings.



AND THEY'RE OFF!

Here's a useful tip to give you an early lead in the game. When you zoom ahead at the beginning of the race, position yourself directly in front of the car to the right of you on the starting grid. When the car catches up, instead of overtaking you, it'll knock straight into the back of your car, thus aiding your acceleration!

MEAN MACHINES



The test track of the Knight League, Silence offers more than its fair share of mines and some of the sharpest corners in the championship.



Found towards the end of the Queen League, White Land is noted as having one of the most difficult jumps in the entire League

COMMENT



JULIAN

Using a similar 3D routine to Pilotwings, F-Zero is simply the most impressive racing game I've ever encountered. For a start, it's stunning to look at, with gorgeous, silky-smooth landscapes whizzing by at incredible speeds. It also plays perfectly - the way the craft "feels" and responds to your joystick movements is utterly perfect. Misjudges a corner at high speed and you skitter all over the track, and much finger twitching is required to save yourself from severe energy drain. Adding to the on-the-edge high speed thrills are the computer opponents, who cut you up and give you a truly challenging race - on later levels they're really hard to beat. If it's high speed thrills 'n' spills you're after, put this at the top of your shopping list.



BY: NINTENDO
PRICE: £40.00

RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW
GAME DIFFICULTY: EASY/MED
LIVES: 3
CONTINUES: 0
SKILL LEVELS: 3
RESPONSIVENESS: WHIZZ



PRESENTATION 88%

Techno-screens for each car, faultless control method and excellent effects make this something special presentation-wise

GRAPHICS 94%

The best 3D race courses you'll find on a console for quite a while yet!

SOUND 87%

Excellent sound effects let down slightly by average tunes

PLAYABILITY 92%

The handling of each car is so perfect that you're instantly drawn into the game

LASTABILITY 88%

F-Zero has fifteen tracks and three skill levels and is so enjoyable to play you'll be at it for months

OVERALL 90%

Fast, thrilling and challenging - everything a race game should be! Go get it!!

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MEAN MACHINES

0839 121 140

Whoop whoop! Easily the best console officially available in Britain, the Megadrive sports the best in arcade-style graphics. We don't like to think that our readers are missing out, so yet again we are giving away one of these fabulous machines. If you want to try to win it, just call the number above, listen to the questions, and send in your answers. Easy as falling over.

0839 121 174

Danny Baker's got one, Lloyd Cole's got one, General "Stormin'" Norman got one. Yap, that wondrous Nintendo Gameboy is taking over the world and you'd have to be a major mug not to own one, so ring the number for your chance to get one without having to shell out for hard-earned spondoolicks. Nifty!

0839 121 188

Free games! If you crave the latest releases for your console but are completely akint, this is the Hotline for you. One hundred and fifty smackers

are yours if your name is the one drawn out of the hat. To stand a chance of winning just grab the 'phone and listen without dribbling. No problem!

0839 121 189

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0839 121 187

Boing! It's finally here, the console we've all been waiting for. The Super Famicom has dedicated chips for sound and graphics as well as the most playable games this side of a bordallo. There's one lying around the office, all packed up and ready to be played, but do we want it? No chance! We're much rather have it go to a good home. All those interested please call the above number.

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GAMEBOY

REVIEW



GREMLINS



THE NEW BATCH™

The boys are back in town! The evil gremlins have returned to wreak havoc on an innocent population, and once more it's up to poor Gizmo to save the day!

Set in the Clamp centre, New York, the infestation of mutated nasties have to be eradicated if the city - and the rest of humanity - are to survive. This takes the form of a horizontally-scrolling platform game, with Gizmo making his way through the floors of the tower avoiding - or eradicating - the enemies in his path. Apart from the obligatory gremlins, spiders and even humans give Gizmo grief as he galloos through the game.

Luckily there are items to help him on his way, and features like the punch block and jumping spring also aid our fluffy hero. In the fourth level, Gizmo dons a headband and bow to become a miniature Rambo!



ITEMS AHOY

Grabbing a pencil arms Gizmo with a weapon, and if he leaps into a toolbox he bounces around the screen flattening everything that moves. The cassette radio makes a musical note above Gizmo's head which he hurls at the gremlins and reveals secret items. So once he's suitably toiled up, Gizmo is now hard to beat.



COMMENT



MATT
I think that the Gameboy has too many platform games like this, but despite that it's a great game. The graphics are a little hazy and the sound is annoying, but the gameplay more than makes up for this. Recommended to those people who can't get enough of those pecky Gremlins!

COMMENT



JULIAN

I love platform games, and this is just what I want! The graphics are very good indeed, with some excellent stills (some of the later screens are superb), and the gameplay is tough enough to keep you happy for ages. If you're after a really enjoyable platform challenge, grab this quick.



NINTENDO £19.99

RATINGS

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| PRESENTATION | 82% |
| GRAPHICS | 88% |
| SOUND | 75% |
| PLAYABILITY | 79% |
| LASTABILITY | 69% |
| OVERALL | 80% |





REVIEW

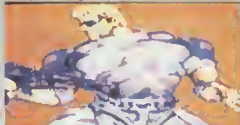
Religion is a wonderful thing - but not in this case! The God of Destruction, Emperor Bios, has created eight unpleasant gods to help him rule the universe. However, Bios' idea of "ruling" involves killing, torturing, raping and even introducing the poll tax!

This conversion of the arcade classic features the hero flying over horizontally-scrolling landscapes shooting anything that moves and even things that stay still. His weapons of destruction fire continuously and the two buttons rotate his disher of doom left and right. Most creatures transform into cash bubbles once zapped, which can be collected and spent in the shops located on each level to buy weapon upgrades, extra lives and health.

Each level differs graphically, with ruined lands, spaceships and Egyptian temples forming the backgrounds. At the end of each level a huge guardian blocks the way and only skill - and firepower - will allow progress. With only one life to begin with, the player better watch the life meter carefully or it's curtains for blue eyes.



▲ Approaching the War God



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Early on in each level, a shop appears. Once inside, the hero has a choice of a number of death-daunting goodies and life-aiding devices. Here's a peek!



SEGA

REVIEW



SEGA
REVIEW

COMMENT

Although the Megadrive version was very polished, it suffered from being too easy. The Sega conversion also has this problem, and that definitely weakens the lasting appeal of the game. The graphics are of a very high standard (especially on the later levels) but the music is dire and distracting. It's not by any means a bad game: it just isn't that good either, and it's a shame that the

MATT

two-player option has been lost. With Xenon II due out in the near future (see the preview in this issue) I'd recommend that you wait for that game, as it's a far better blast.



▲ The first boss, Parametium, needs some blasting.



GUARDIAN ENVIRONMENTS



The big bosses in *Forgotten Worlds* come in a host of shapes and sizes. The first one, Parametium, is a big blob of evil, spitting gobs of death and surrounded by a protective satellites. The Egyptian God of War is next, who pummels the heroes with huge fists and zaps bolts from his eyes. After that, things start to get difficult...



I'VE FINALLY FOUND HIM!
THIS TIME HE'S MINE...



IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN
PARAMETIUM TO STOP ME!

ROCKET



FLASK



LASER

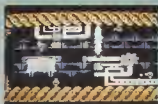




REVIEW



▲ From people I won't challenge!



▲ Cogs of doom!



COMMENT



JULIAN

Sporting graphics that bear a remarkable resemblance to the original arcade machine, *Forgotten Worlds* is an enjoyable blasting game with plenty of action. However, it has one bad flaw - it's too easy. Within a couple of sittings you're right into the game, and it doesn't take much practice to get to Bios and kick his head in. Had the gameplay been tougher, this would be highly recommended. As it stands, only those who are completely new to the shoot 'em up scene will get any challenge and long-term play out of it.

DON'T FORGET THE MEGADRIE



The Megadrive version of *Forgotten Worlds* was one of the first games to be released officially in the UK. It's a great conversion, with arcade quality graphics and sound, but suffers from a similar problem to this Master System version inasmuch that it's a bit too easy, and skilled players can complete it within a couple of days.



BY: SEGA
PRICE: £34.99

RELEASE DATE: JULY
GAME DIFFICULTY: EASY
LIVES: ONE
CONTINUES: NONE
SKILL LEVELS: 3
RESPONSIVENESS: FAB



PRESENTATION 78%

The title sequences have been kept from the arcade version, adding a lot of atmosphere.

GRAPHICS 89%

The sprites are fine, but it's the backgrounds that make this a treat to look at.

SOUND 62%

The Sega's sound chip tries its hardest but still fails to provide a decent tune.

PLAYABILITY 73%

Very addictive at first because you get further and further with each game.

LASTABILITY 57%

It's too easy to complete, and only novices will find any sort of long-term challenge.

OVERALL 62%

A great looking and highly playable conversion ruined by lack of challenge and lasting appeal.

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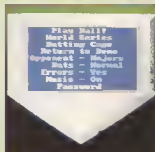
Let's play ball! That most American of sports, baseball, has never really made it to British shores. But now Accolade hope to change all that with the release of *Hardball*.

After making team and opponent selections, the game switches to the stadium. Player one starts the pitching and chooses between various curve and spin throws. Then he pitches, and gets either a strike or a no ball. If the batter hits the ball (and if it doesn't land in the foul ball zone) he gets to run through the bases. If a fielder catches the ball, or throws it to a baseman before the batter gets there, the batter is out.

When the player is batting he moves the batter's feet around to get the best angle on the pitch and swings the bat at the optimum moment. Then he runs like hell to first base and hopefully beyond. Once he's on a base, he can attempt to steal to the next one at any time using the B button.



▲ Two Outs, so be careful!
▼ Where the hell's the ball?



▲ Choose your options.



▲ Whoops, missed.



SAMPLED WARES

Hardball includes a fair amount of sampled speech. When a player gets his third strike, the referee yells, "Yer out!". Also as the ball flies through the air the voice informs the player of the nearest fielder; "Short stop" or "Left field" for example. However, if the ball is sailing over the head of that player it isn't a great deal of help!



ALL!



MEGADRIVE

REVIEW



牛寺集



▲ The view from the crowd.

CURVE BALLS

The pitcher's selection of throws depends on the individual side playing. Some pitchers have a range of curve balls to throw, while others rely on sinkers or fastballs to get past the batter. The effect of the throws depends on whether the batter is left- or right handed. There's not much point throwing a curve ball if it curves straight on to his ball

COMMENT



JULIAN

Hardball is a very good simulation of the sport, featuring great gameplay, superb presentation, tough computer opponents, excellent sampled speech, a fun two-player option and brilliant animation on the close-up screens. But even though it's as easily the best Megadrive baseball game available, unlike John Madden's Football and PGA Tour Golf, it hasn't quite got that addictive spark which makes it really enjoyable to play. If you're not particularly interested in the real sport. So although baseball fans will absolutely adore the action, those who aren't interested in hitting home runs won't get full value for money out of this.



▼ Look at the stats, choose subs.

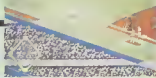
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▲ Bases loaded ..



MEAN MACHINES



Foul ball!

THE WORLD SERIES

Baseball is the national sport of the US, and is guaranteed to draw huge audiences. There are two leagues (as in American Football), the National and American Leagues. Every year the top teams from each league compete in a grand tournament called the World Series, despite the fact that only Americans play. The very first Series was played in 1903 and the final was between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Boston Somersets (now known as the Red Sox). Boston, although the underdogs, convincingly beat the Pirates in a thrilling finale. Now, of course, the World Series is an established event watched by millions



COMMENT

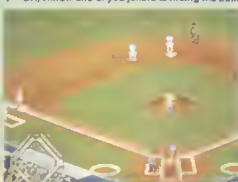


MATT

After the disappointing Super League Baseball, Hardball comes as a breath of fresh air. It's a not easy to get to grips with the game (expect to be thrashed by the computer the first few times!), but effort is rewarded with the fun of making that first home run. The animation of the pitcher and batter makes up for the otherwise poor graphics, and the options include changing everything from the quality of the opposition to the type of bats used. As with most sports games, Hardball is best played with another person; but this is still a good one-player game.



▼ OK, I know one of you jokers is hiding the ball!



BY: BALLISTIX

PRICE: £39.99

RELEASE DATE: JUNE

GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

LIVES: N/A

CONTINUES: N/A

SKILL LEVELS: 2

RESPONSIVENESS: GOOD



PRESENTATION 73%

The intros aren't exactly throat-grabbing, but there are loads of options and the selection screens are clear and concise

GRAPHICS 80%

Great animation on the close-up screens, but the larger view is disappointing

SOUND 83%

The annoying tune can be removed and the sampled speech is great

PLAYABILITY 79%

This is a tricky game at first, but against a human opponent it's lots of fun!

LASTABILITY 76%

As the game isn't too easy or too hard, there's plenty of longevity here

OVERALL 80%

An excellent baseball game that's a must for fans of the sport

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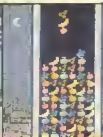


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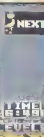
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KING'S BOUNTY

King Maximus was a lovely chap. He travelled the land doing good deeds, helping the needy and feeding the hungry. He trotted about on the Royal Pony dispensing righteous justice with his Sceptre of Order. Meanwhile, Arch Dragonbreath, hating the twee nature of the softy, goodie-two-shoes ruler and his kingdom, decided to invade and lay waste to the four continents with his Dark Legions. To throw the land into chaos and weaken Maximus' forces, Arch has stolen the Sceptre of Order and the armies of good will not be able to repel the invaders unless it is recovered.

King's Bounty is a cross between an RPG and a strategy game. You can play as one of four characters, each of which have their own strengths and weaknesses. Once chosen, the character recruits his own group of soldiers and treks across the landscape searching for treasure, artifacts and foes to chop up. Killing monsters earns the character a bounty which pays for siege equipment, spells, information and extra troops.

Ships are the army's standard mode of transport, and as the party sails around the continents promotions and extra troops help to bolster its strength. However, to find the sceptre, it's essential to find the map which shows its location. Unfortunately the map is broken up and scattered around the landscape, and finding those pieces is a quest in itself!



▲ The king tells this hero what to do and provide a few troops for the task



▲ Those trolls are wiping out all the good guys



FOUR PLAY

The four choices of character vary dramatically in their particular abilities. Here's a look at them.

LORD PALMER

This paladin is good at magic and has strong troops. He is not as powerful in combat situations as the knight though.

SIR CRIMSAUN

He's a knight, and is therefore good at leading troops into battle. He also gets lots of money every week. However, his magic is not that powerful.

TYNNESTRA

This sorceress is rubbish at leading her troops, but a whizz with magic. Don't expect to win battles by brute force.

MAD MOHAM

Moham the barbarian is easily the best fighter in combat, and has excellent troops to begin the game. However his magic is so bad he has to be taught spells before he can use them.

MAGIC
MOMENTS

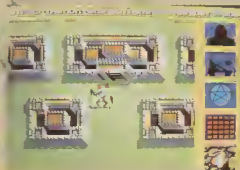
The array of spells can be daunting at first, but the magic system is easy to get used to. Most spells can be bought or found, and it's a certain spell doesn't seem to be around it probably isn't needed on that continent. Some spells are only available during combat, while others come into force while exploring or in a town. Instant Army is a fun spell for increasing the friendly forces before a battle, while Bridge helps to get across a river or stream.



▲ It's time the many caves (really a recruiting chamber) for the army.



▲ Recruiting into magic is a precious combat.



▲ The start of the game, outside Marquis castle.

COMMENT

I thought this was going to be an average RPG, but in fact it's not at all. I especially like the straightforward combat system, and though the graphics are hardly likely to win any awards, they do convey all the information. I'm not sure that this will sell too well (considering the hefty price tag), but I like it anyway. The only thing you should watch out for is the compatibility problem with Japanese Megadrives, so think twice before buying if you don't own an official machine.



MATT

Japanese Megadrives, so think twice before buying if you don't own an official machine.



Recruit Soldiers GP=9631

Recruit Soldiers GP=9631

Militia 50
 Archers 250
 Pikemen 300
 Cavalry n/a
 Knights n/a

You may get
 up to 45.
 Recruit how
 many? 6

COMMENT



JULIAN

Not being particularly interested in RPG's, a game of this sort has to be pretty amazing to get me playing. Sword of Vermillion managed to do it last month, but unfortunately this one failed to grab my enthusiasm. It's quite good fun, but neither the graphics or the sound provide any sort of atmosphere and the gameplay simply isn't addictive enough to appeal to anyone other than ardent RPG fans.

ORC-WARD BATTLES

The combat screen shows both friendly and enemy units. Each friendly unit receives an order to move and/or fight every turn, the limitations of which vary according to the type of unit. Sprites, for example, can fly to any part of the screen, and archers aren't limited to attacking the adjacent square the way that other units are. Stats for every unit can be checked from the commander's menu - remember, it isn't a good idea to send peasants up against ogres...



▲ The archers and pikemen wipe out some orcs.

Kings Bounty



Copyright 1995, 1996, 1997
New World Computing, Inc.

BY: EA

PRICE: £39.99

RELEASE DATE: JUNE

GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

LIVES: N/A

CONTINUES: N/A

SKILL LEVELS: 1

RESPONSIVENESS: GOOD

1-2
PLAYERS



PRESENTATION 78%

Crude but effective screens lead the player through the game, and the manual is laid out informatively.

GRAPHICS 74%

The graphics aren't too attractive, but they never obscure the task in hand.

SOUND 67%

An annoying tune plays throughout, and the sound effects are pretty limited.

PLAYABILITY 82%

An annoying tune plays throughout, and the sound effects are pretty limited.

LASTABILITY 80%

It will take many days of playing to complete this, and then there are the other characters to play with.

OVERALL 80%

An RPG which is long on gameplay, but short on decent graphics and sound. Try it out if you're an RPG fan.

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SUPER SPIKE VOLLEYBALL

The world's favourite beach sport comes home with the advent of this spanking new Nintendo cart! Volleyball is best described as a sort of Tennis without the racquets, where the object is to keep the ball in the air for as long as possible. If it touches the ground in your half of the pitch you lose a point, if it reaches terra firma in the opponent's half then you gain a point. The first team to possess 15 points is deemed the winner.

Super Spike Volleyball contains all the bumps, sets and spikes a volleyball fan could hope for, along with messes and masses of options with which to tweak the game. In keeping with the spirit of the game, Super Spike Volleyball even supplies a beach bimbo to act as referee!



▲ The guy on the left puts his deodorant on the ball.



▲ Point! Someone feels stupid...

THE BEACH BOYS

There are four pairs of bronzed hunks that the player can control for the duration of your volleyball-related antics. Each pair have their own strengths and weaknesses. On the character select screen, the players boast about what they're good at, somehow neglecting to mention the aspects of the game at which they're not so hot. Here's a guide to each.



NAME: AL

PARTNER: JOHN

COMMENTS: Spiking the ball back into the air is this couple's specialty. This is good for both defense (recovering the ball from a nasty attack) and attack (positioning the ball for a lethal shot).



NAME: GEORGE

PARTNER: MURPHY

COMMENTS: George and Murphy claim they're brilliant at everything vaguely related to volleyball. The truth of the matter is they're a very average team, not excelling at anything in particular.

NINTENDO

REVIEW



COMMENT

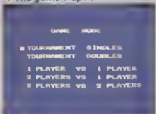


RICH

Idea of having four different teams to choose from is a good one and helps suit your style of play. The graphics are fine, although the backdrops don't significantly change between each level. The sprites are large and well-animated and the sound consists of a few decent tunes and some nice sound effects (the crowd noise is pretty good). With two, three or four players participating, Super Spike Volleyball is a whole different ball game. I'd recommend this to anyone after an all-round good game.

▲ Mid-air action.

▼ The game's options revealed.



▼ Free bimbo with every cart!



STATE SELECT

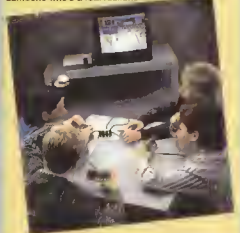


1P : ARKANSAS

▲ The US in all its glory! nurrn!

FOUR PLAY ON THE BEACH

Along with Iven "Ironman" Stewart's Super Off-Road Racer, Super Spike Volleyball is a game that enables up to four players to participate at once. This is achieved via the use of the Four-Score device which enables four controllers to be plugged into the NES at once. Super Spike Volleyball also features the option to pit one player against two, if you feel like taking on someone who's a real reckoner.



NAME: BILLY
PARTNER: JIMMY

COMMENTS: The Double Dragons strike back! Unfortunately, they choose not to kick in the opposition in this game. Instead they play a very strong defensive game, which is just as well as there aren't any bonus points for making your opponents eat knuckle.



NAME: ED
PARTNER: MICHAEL

COMMENTS: Ed and Michael pride themselves on their speed. This doesn't just mean their running speed, but the velocity of their shots too. Watch out!

TOURNAMENT CHOICES

There are three different types of match that players can participate in. An exercise game is just that, the opportunity to hone your skills before you enter a tournament proper. There are two types of tournament on offer. The American Circuit takes our volleyball aces through a season of volleyball starting off at Daytona. The World Cup pits our beach-loving heroes against skillful players from around the globe, in pursuit of the World Cup itself.

NINTENDO
REVIEW

COMMENT



I'm not really a volleyball fan, and didn't think that this would make for a particularly exciting or interesting game. How wrong I was.

JULIAN Super Spike Volleyball offers plenty of thrills and spills! The presentation is superb, with a huge variety of options that let you tailor the game to suit your requirements, and loads of computer teams to challenge you. The graphics and sound are also great, but where this scores highest is in the playability. The control method is fairly easy to master and there are a huge variety of moves available, meaning that novices can easily get into the game, but there's plenty of opportunity for experts to develop wicked playing strategies! Although it's a challenging and enjoyable game with one player, like all sports simulations, the game is best appreciated when two players (or even three or four if you have a Four Score adaptor) are participating simultaneously! A must for sports fans.



▲ Ready to serve?

GROOVY
MOVERS

There are plenty of moves available to each player. When the ball sails over the net into your half the first priority is get the ball back into the air. A quick 'dig' underneath the ball is enough to achieve this. This enables the second player to position the ball (or just volley it straight over). The first player is then given the opportunity to place the shot, and depending on the position you move the joystick, the landing area of the ball is determined. This means that different shots can be attempted from the 'wham-it-right-to-the-back' shot to the 'sneak-it-sunningly-just-over-the-net' effort.



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BY: NINTENDO
PRICE: £34.99

RELEASE DATE: JULY
GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM
LIVES: N/A
CONTINUES: 0
SKILL LEVELS: 1
RESPONSIVENESS: GREAT

1-4
PLAYERS



PRESENTATION 92%

Loads of screens to wade through and a myriad of options

GRAPHICS 83%

A nice play-area populated with excellent sprites

SOUND 83%

Nice tunes that suit the atmosphere coupled with fitting effects

PLAYABILITY 87%

It's easy to pick up and play, and gives instant enjoyment

LASTABILITY 83%

Two, three and four player options are the icing on the Lastability Cake

OVERALL 83%

An excellent NES sports game well worth the money. Check it out

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MEGADRIVE

- ▲ AFTERBURNER II
- 2 ▲ PGA TOUR GOLF
- 3 ▼ MICKEY MOUSE
- 4 ▲ JM'S FOOTBALL
- 5 ▲ BATTLE SQUADRON
- 6 ▼ GOLDEN AXE
- 7 ▼ ARNOLD'S GOLF
- 8 **NE** ARROW FLASH
- 9 ▼ SUPER MONACO GP
- 10 ▼ JAMES POND

MEGADRIVE

Looks like you Megadrive owners enjoy kicking ass in the skies, 'cos Afterburner is now the Top Gun in the charts. PGA Golf has rightly displaced the inferior Arnold Palmer, and the slightly dodgy Arrow Flash is the only new entry. Mickey has slipped somewhat but on the strength of the latest titles is unlikely to disappear for a while.

PREDICTIONS

NINTENDO: GREMLINS (AGAIN)
MEGAORIVE: SHADOW DANCER
MASTER SYSTEM: IMPOSSIBLE MISSION

Golden Axe starts slipping!



McLeod form is reaching top gear



Arrow Flash is the only new game.

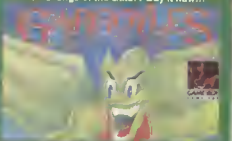


GAMEBOY

- 1 ▲ SUPER MARIOLAND
- 2 ▲ DOUBLE DRAGON
- 3 ▼ SPIDERMAN
- 4 ▼ GARGOYLES QUEST
- 5 **NE** WIZ & WARR

GAMEBOY

This is a bit of an odd one. Spiderman has lost out after only one month at the top, to be replaced by the old (but fabby) Marioland. Hmm. Wizards and Warriors is edging its way into the charts and no doubt will settle down for a stay. But where oh where is Revenge of the Gator? Buy it now!!!





NINTENDO

- 1 **NE** GREMLINS II
- 2 **▲** SUPER MARIO II
- 3 **▼** MEGAMAN II
- 4 **NE** BLACK MANTA
- 5 **▼** WORLD WRESTLING
- 6 **▲** SNAKE R N R
- 7 **NE** NINTENDO CUP
- 8 **▲** FAXANADU
- 9 **▼** DUCK TALES
- 10 **▼** SUPER OFFROAD

NINTENDO

The pesky verminths romp home in the number one slot this month, demolishing Megaman II's position. Black Manta peeks its head over the battlements and the dross known as Nintendo World Cup is another new entry. Are you lot mad or what? Duck Tales is disappearing faster than it deserves to - and so is Super Offroad!



▲ Black Manta storms in.



▲ Gremlins gobble up the top slot.



SEGA

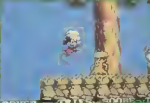
- 1 **◀** MICKEY MOUSE
- 2 **▲** HW BOXING
- 3 **▼** INDIANA JONES
- 4 **▼** DICK TRACY
- 5 **▼** IMPOSS MISSION
- 6 **NE** JM'S FOOTBALL
- 7 **NE** CYBER SHINOBI
- 8 **▼** GOLDEN AXE
- 9 **▼** NINJA
- 10 **▼** WORLD SOCCER

SEGA

There's a very little change here either, with Disney's cheese-nibbler hanging on to first place. Dick Tracy and Heavyweight Boxing are both doing well, and Joe Montana's Football is worthy of its place. Why on Earth are you people buying Cyber Shinobi? It's worse than Fast Friends on TV!



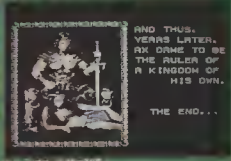
▲ Cybes in at eight.



▲ Mickey's still there!



▲ Joe's not slow to get in.



▲ The end of AXE?

AND THUS, YEARS LATER, AX CAME TO BE THE RULER OF A KINGDOM OF HIS OWN.

THE END...

TWO SUPER FAMICOMS UP FER GRABS!!!

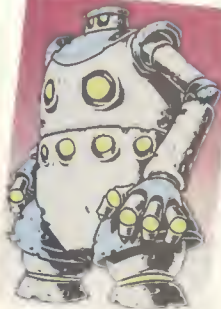
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You're probably wondering what on Earth to do with those funny things on the front cover. Well, they're glow in the dark stickers! If you want hideous mutated beasts staring you in the face when the lights are out, either marry Esther Rentzen or put our stickers under a strong light for a few minutes. Then peel them off, stick 'em down, and shriek in horror!

Gary's busy drawing another set for next month's issue, so you'll be able to adorn all your exercise books or walls. On top of that, if you collect both you'll be able to enter our feb competition to win one of TWO Super Famicoms! Just carefully put aside the sticker marked "MEAN MACHINES Token" and buy the next issue when it comes out. Then look for the special competition, attach the two stickers and send it off!

If you want to double your chances to win (and have a cracking good read at the same time) then there are similar stickers on the cover of the latest CVG. Collect those and the ones on the cover of the following issue for another chance to win one of two Famicoms!

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A BOY AND HIS BLOB

It is the twenty-first century and a crisis faces the rotund blob-like beings of Blobolonia. The Emperor has suddenly become a rather evil tyrant bent on force-feeding the inhabitants a staple diet of marshmallows and chocolate. This may sound fine to most people, but in reality not a lot of blobs like marshmallows and chocolate, preferring the lovely taste of jellybeans.

One such Blob (named Blobert, but he prefers to be called Blob by his friends) has escaped to Earth and has made friends with a young boy (drew your own conclusions about this). This young lad is pretty upset about the treatment his chum is getting and decides to brutally murder the Emperor and liberate the inhabitants of Blob. Hurrah!

Many days and sleepless nights are spent by the boy and his Blob formulating cunning plans with which to bring down the evil Emperor. In the end, our heroes decide to collect a load of treasure, swap it for some vitamins (why he can't just go down to Boots and buy some isn't explained) and then force-feed them to the Emperor back on Blobolonia. Only then can the Blobs be free from their gastronomic oppression.

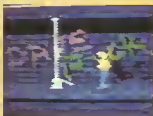
► Use the floorica ladder to get the treasure!

JELLYBEAN REMIX

In controlled experiments, it was discovered that Blobs are instantly transformed into useful items by feeding them different varieties of jellybean. Our youthful hero carries a backpack full of jellybeans and since Blobert likes them so much, he's all too pleased to transform himself into venous shapes - especially if his blob-like form can be used to solve some of the platform puzzles found in the game.



The first Blob-related puzzle. How can the boy reach the lower level of the subway? Blob can be changed into a hole simply by feeding him a punch jellybean. The boy can now fall through the hole.



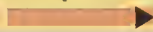
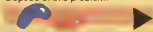
Removing those manhole covers would give our youthful hero more access to the underground subway. Feed Blob with an apple-flavoured bean and he'll change into a jack, which should dispose of this problem!



My, what a long fall! Simply feed Blobert with a vanilla jellybean and he'll change into an umbrella. The boy can scoop this up and use it to break his fall!



To reach higher platforms, our hero can either feed Blob a floorica bean to change him into a ladder...





COMMENT



A Boy and His Blob scores no points for pulse-racing excitement. The pace of the game is quite sedate, and you have to get quite a way into the game before your reactions are put to the test. However, A Boy and His Blob is one of the most challenging arcade adventures I've ever played. What I like about it is that there's always more than one way to complete a puzzle. For example, cushioning

RICH

that maeels will can be achieved with either the Cola Bubble or the Vanilla Umbrella. The game also has a superb graphic quality. Some of the backdrops are digitised and superbly coloured, whilst the sprites are fantastic. The boy moves smoothly and realistically and the Blob himself is a masterpiece of animation. He smiles inanely when he sees a jellybean being tossed his way, and has the most pathetic look on his face if you don't feed him for a while! There's months of gaming in this cart, and it's worth every penny. Nintendo owners should go forth and purchase immediately!



▲ A visit to the drugstore!



▲ Partners in crime!



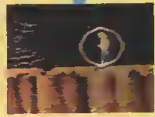
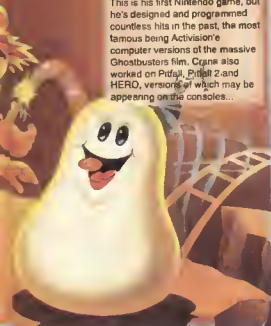
▲ Good party trick, ah?



When all the necessary vitamins have been collected, it's time to journey across the cosmos to take the Emperor. Use the root beer bean to change Blob into a rocket. Climb aboard for a first class ride to Blobolonia!

THE CRANE FILE

A Boy and His Blob was designed by almost legendary David Crane. This is his first Nintendo game, but he's designed and programmed countless hits in the past, the most famous being Activision's computer versions of the massive Ghostbusters film. Crane also worked on Pitfall, Pitfall 2 and HERO, versions of which may be appearing on the consoles...



...Or give him a tangerine jellybean. This changes him into a trampoline, which the boy can use to jump higher and higher!

But the poor old Blob cannot join the boy on the higher platform. No problem! Simply throw down a honey-flavoured bean to change Blob into a hummingbird. He can now fly up to join his friend!

That gap in the scenery is too long for a jump, but Blob comes to the rescue yet again. Toss him a strawberry bean and he'll turn himself into a convenient bridge!

To protect him from long falls or to breathe underwater, the boy can give his blob-like friend a cole jellybean. This turns the blob into a bubble, which the boy can enter. Watch out for spikes, though!



COMMENT



JULIAN

A Boy and His Blob is every bit as strange as it sounds. The gameplay is very unusual, with elements of arcade adventuring and puzzle-solving thrown together in a highly original way. The way the problems are presented is neat, requiring you to use your blob to the best of his transforming abilities. Some situations are quite tricky, and require plenty of lateral thinking to see them through, but they're never so tough that you give up completely - just try out a few beans and see what comes up! As well as being great fun to play, A Boy and His Blob looks and sounds brilliant. The graphics are tremendous, with superb sprite animation and stunning backdrops, and there are a variety of excellent tunes and effects adding a great atmosphere to the game. Put them together with the amazingly addictive gameplay and you've got a game that'll keep you playing for ages.



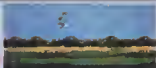
A Loads treasure!

GOING UNDERGROUND



--- PAUSE ---

The place to find your treasures is a vast, sprawling tunnel network located far below the city streets. Getting there is the only problem, or is it? Using Blob's special shape-shifting powers it shouldn't be too long before you're exploring the dangerous caverns. Watch out for the evil snakes though - they're pretty possessive of all the treasures that they guard. Also, look out for an underground water channel. There are bound to be loads of treasure in the watery depths. It's a shame the boy can't swim. Maybe Blob can help?



HEALTH FOOD HIJINX

Once you've collected some treasure, travel to the health store to buy some vitamins. There are several different types on offer. Not only do they come in handy for butchering the evil emperor, they are also used later on in the game to dispose of some of the nastier enemy sprites!



GAMEBOY BLOMBANIA

A version of this great Nintendo game is available for the handheld Gameboy. The object of the Gameboy version is much the same, except that the map is completely different. All of Blob's powers are in there and the graphics are quite nice, but unfortunately, the game's only available on import. If you're desperate to buy it, try to get an American version because all of the text on the Japanese version of the game is indecipherable (unless you can read Japanese, that is).



David Greaves



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RELEASE DATE: JULY
GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM
LIVES: 3
CONTINUES: 0
SKILL LEVELS: 1
RESPONSIVENESS: SUPER



PRESENTATION 91%

Helpful hints are present during the game, and the game itself is polished to perfection.

GRAPHICS 92%

Some of the best animated sprites yet seen in an NES game, coupled with excellent backdrops.

SOUND 80%

A nice selection of effects and a suitably intense theme tune.

PLAYABILITY 93%

The puzzling aspect is superbly presented and instantly addictive.

LASTABILITY 92%

A huge map to explore and loads of treasures to collect make this one that'll have you puzzling for ages.

OVERALL 91%

A superbly executed, very original, fun arcade adventure that demands a place in your NES collection.



BOULDER DASH

ルターダッシュTM

Rockford's on the lookout for jewels, so he's warped to a vast, sprawling underground system literally teeming with diamonds - and boulders. Unfortunately, as he digs the earth away to get at the jewels he dislodges the boulders, and if these fall on his head he loses a life (and gains a headache).

Later levels also present new hazards including butterflies that kill our hero on contact. But being a pretty resourceful chap, Rockford can drop boulders on their heads to change them into a mound of diamonds!

There are four worlds' worth of diamond-collecting antics, each with a different number of sub-levels. There's also a couple of bonus games thrown in which allow Rockford to boost his score potential!

COMMENT

A graphical ace-act is all that separates this from the classic C64 game from which it originated. The same maps and classic gameplay suit the Gameboy perfectly.

RICH

Lightly blurry scrolling is the only downer but still, Boulder Dash is one to buy as soon as possible.

MAGNIFYING MAP MODE

Like the Gameboy version of Ms PacMan, Boulder Dash has two different screen modes. The first is a close-up, detailed view with very pretty graphics. A quick stab at the select button changes the screen to map mode, where more of the map can be viewed. It must be said that the latter option is infinitely preferable to the cramped detail mode.

COMMENT

Boulderdash is one of the finest video games ever written - it's six years old, but is still as fresh as the day it was written. This Gameboy version has all the features of the original, and while the scrolling is a bit blurry, the highly addictive gameplay more than makes up for it. If you want to sample a tasty slice of gaming history, check this out.



JULIAN

BOULDER DASH

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NINTENDO £19.99

RATINGS

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| PRESENTATION | 84% |
| GRAPHICS | 79% |
| SOUND | 75% |
| PLAYABILITY | 94% |
| LASTABILITY | 91% |
| OVERALL | 80% |





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NINTENDO SWAP I will swap Robocop, Turtles or Paperboy for any other good games. Especially wanted WWF Challenges. Phone Paul on 274 7409 (Newcastle Upon Tyne)

I WILL SWAP Balloon Fight for BATMAN Zeldia. Mario III Kid Icarus, Goemon II, Adventures of Link, Simpsons, Megaman I

WWF, Red Gravity or Duck Tales. Phone Donny on 081 556 8819 (Leighton)

I WILL SWAP Tennis Ace (Sega) for Super Monaco GP, Goldmora World Soccer. I'll interested. Tel James 0845 523317

I WILL SWAP Pacemay for either Mickey Mouse or Bubble Bobble. I will be grateful. Tel 0296 748321

ANYONE SWAP swap games with me. I have Slender, Alienated Beast, Rambo III and Golden Axe

Any decent games accepted. Phone 051 352 7454

SWAP Easel, Strider, Golden Axe, Ghostbusters for other Megadrive games. Phone with my swaps 031 667 877 ask for John

I WILL SWAP Festers Quest for Adventures of Link or World Whizzing. Phone Tim on 0734 8341 13

SWAP Ringo Angels or Thunderforce II for Super Shmuck, Slinder, Golden Axe, Shmuck in Ghosls, Ring Dan on 0789 204532

WILL SWAP American Nintendo Carts Entebbe, T. Surf, Rygar for Sega Master System (English) or American Nintendo games or accessories. Phone John on 04865 3054

WILL SWAP my Gameboy, R-Type, Chessmaster, Super Mario Land, Shanghai, NBA Basketball, Gremlins II for any other decent games. Phone Neil after 5pm 0362 721693

I WILL SWAP Adventures of Link for Super Mario Bros II. Phone Matthew on 0761 6572

SWAP Super Mario I, Black Mania, Legend of Zelda for Balloon, Double Dragon II, Kid James. Phone Andrew on 0606 853392 after 5.30pm

WILL SWAP with link cables headphones. Telns. Sal. bound. I'll swap my Gameboy for Megadrive for I and/or any other game. Phone Jason on 081 310 7045

EXCHANGE Megadrive, Axis Kidd or Golden Axe or Super Real Baseball for Mickey Mouse or Duck Tracy. 0202 523787

I WILL SWAP Wizard and Wario or Super Mario II for WWF or Contra (Gameboy). Ring James on 662872 (Swanley)

ANYONE SWAP for Nintendo game Mario Brothers II for Gremlins II. Megadrive II for NES Adventure Joystick. Tel 0403 57027

ANYBODY want to swap D.J. Boy for Golden Axe or Budokan or any other half decent game? I'll swap to 3 Ridgeway Park, South Portland Cio. Amnagh, N. Ireland BT62 3DQ or Phone 0762 338941 After 4.30

SWAP my Atari 2600 and games for 5 Megadrive cartridges also Thunderforce III for Balloon or swap my Spectrums + 2 and over 350 games. 2 physicals and an interface for 10 games. Luke Nash 49 Dock Road, Tilbury Essex RM19 7DB

HEY YOU OUT THERE my name is Avtar. Avtar Nagar and I have the Red game called Truxton. But I have put balen I and would swap for Moonwalker, Easel and Ghosls in Ghosls. Tel 571 3041 Modless

SHINDO or Qunhonor R-Type or Ghosls Ghosts of I will swap Action Fighter or Tensbol for Rescue Mission or Ninja Phone 830646 (Truro) ask for Paul

I WILL SWAP TINT or Castlevania for Balloon. Phone 0582 55551 ask for Steven

I WILL SWAP my Golden Axe and Indiana Jones for any other good games (please specify game). This for the Gameboy System I will also swap single carted game

Craig Armstrong 124 Arkelston Road, Paisley, Renfrewshire Scotland PA1 3TZ or Phone 041 8875444

I WILL SWAP my Pal Sega Megadrive only 3 months old and in excellent condition with Golden Axe, Popcorns, Mickey Mouse, Revenge of Shmuck, 2 Jynxes and English games converter. Will swap the lot for an Amiga A500? Tel 0229 56309

I WILL SWAP Talsun for E Seal and my Afterburner for Duck Tracy. Phone 0964 535603 (Hornsea)

WILL SWAP my Gameboy and Super Mario Land, Tetris, Space Invaders and Golf games for 3 decent Megadrive Games. Contact Simon on 0637 878304 between 11 am-4 pm / 1pm-10pm. All the above are in excellent condition

I WILL SWAP my Nintendo and three games for a Japanese Megadrive and games. Call James or Bristol 731 624

MEGADRIVE GAMES to exchange Rambo III, Forgiven Words, Moonwalker, Baseball, Ghosts, Rambo Island, New Zealand Story and Thunderforce II. Phone Sheffield 0742 695956 - Richard

MASTER SYSTEM with Super Hero, Shmuck II, Tips and Mickey Mouse for NES + games or sell £15. Spectrum £48 and Joystick. Interface over 150 games. Sell for £100 or swap NES + games. Phone Nik on 021 722 2840

I DESPERATELY WANT TO SWAP Rambo III and Dynamite Dmx for Mickey Mouse or sell them for £12 each. Tel John on 0408 696073

FOR SWAP Turtles, Fazuana for Rush n' Attack, Bionic Commando, Cobra Triangle, Simons Quest, R.C. Pro Am or Black Mania. Ring 0264 354632

I WANT TO SWAP Cyberball for Ghostbusters, Rambo III for Super Hery On, Super Monaco for Populous, Truxton for Air Driver and Dynamite Duke for Super Shmuck. Phone Lee on 0482 629408

I WILL SWAP any Nintendo or Gameboy games for your Nintendo or Gameboy games. Phone 051 354 4944 and ask for Paul

JAPANESE MEGADRIVE I have Zonen, Final Blow, Mickey Mouse, Action Fighter, I will swap for Super Shmuck, Super Monaco G.P. John Madness Football or Ghostbusters. Phone Gary on 05653 42553

NINTENDO SWAP Turtles or Robocop for World Wrestling or Pinch Out. Tel 0432 353302

Wets to, 21 Tower Road, Hereford HR4 6LJ

I WILL SWAP my Gameboy (includes Tetris and Lightboy) for your Sega Game Gear. Phone Daniel Conway on 081 421 4323

I WILL SWAP Thunderforce III or Forgotten Worlds or World Cup Soccer for either John Maddens Football, Lakers Vs Celtics or Mickey Mouse. Phone 0270 58974 and ask for Andrew anytime after 4pm

I WILL SWAP Metal Gear or Festers Quest for World Wrestling or Double Dragon II or NES. Tel 0234 563271

SWAP BLADES OF STEEL for Simons quest + or Duck Tales or Spy Guy for Fazuana. Phone 091 581 0270 after 5pm

FORGOTTEN WORLDS, JAMES POND, WORLD COPITALIA 90 for any brilliant games. Contact James on 05343 63240

WILL SWAP Y.M.A.T. for Duck Tales or Super Mario II. Phone 0802 736362 ask for Greg

ATARI VLS MAGAZINE midlines Reviews. Send a stamp to Andrew 63 Croftway, Selby, N York YO8 9DQ. Please write and support. Thanks

AD WALKER FOR EITHER GOLDEN AXE Dynamite Duke or After Bmer two in the Megadrive. Tel 0885 52021

FEAR SWAP GHULNS AND GHOSTS, Truxton, Alienated Beast or Battle Squadron for your duck Tracy, Super hang on, Shadow Dragon or Ghost Busters. Phone 0480 671 7 after 5 pm and ask for Crag or Paul. I'll be in Cambridgeshire area

WILL SWAP GOLDEN AXE and I sell basketball for any other two megadrive games preferably Mickey Mouse and Strider. Phone 0592 627690

NINTENDO GAMES TO SWAP, Solar jet man, Turtles, SMBI. Call after 4 p.m. ask for Simon tel 0500066024

TURTLES, SUPER MARIO LAND Will swap for Paper Boy, WWF, Mega man or Binnie Bobble (for Gameboy) (0787)

227762 N. Essex. Spectrum + 48k with over 50 games. Philips tape recorder, interface, joystick, etc. Good games from £1 sold separately (0787) 227762

PC ENGINE GAMES (LOADS) SWAP or sell + maybe buy write to Mr. D. 30 13 Redford Road, Worsop. Notts S80 2PT

ROCKY, VANISHED DMENS Cyborg Hunter, Aztec adventure, World Soccer, Monopoly or £10 each. Mega drive populous phantasy star 2 (0692) 594688

I WILL SWAP PRO AMERICAN FOOTBALL GAME for operation wall or California games phone Terry on 05433 274161

GAMEBOY games wanted to swap with to Pent 386 Hobbyist Close, Northampton. Phone 0504 763740

MARIO II FOR TURTLES I'll force Mega Man I, Mario also Duck Hunt or 24 Cent Iron Sword, tel 362012 2 Bankm. Kent after 4.30 p.m

I WILL SWAP GOLDEN AXE Russian and World Boy 3 for any other game for sega master system. 071-4652170

PEN PALS

PENPALS wanted, preferably Spectrum Owners. Write to Paddy Chadderton, 66 The Hind, Moxley B ham B13 0DD

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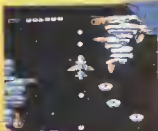
MESSAGE

ATTENTION JAPANESE MEGADRIVE OWNERS you can convert your Japanese Megadrive to display English text with a simple modification and convert it back to its native speed (ASTR) for more information send SAE to C. E. to CONSOLE WORKHAM Sutherland

gods. Perton. Wiltshire, Wiltshire, Wiltshire

PREVIEW

MEGADRIVE



▲ *Blasting action!*



Xenon 2, it's a Megablast! Let's make no bones about it, Mirrorsoft's second Sega release looks like being the final word in Master System shoot 'em ups! It's as close a conversion of the award-winning mega-selling Amiga glgblest as any Sega fan could ask for!

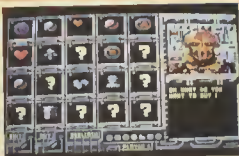
The scenario is (as expected), pretty lame. As it happens, some nasty laser-pecking aliens want to do away with the Earth's domination of the cosmos and as such have planted nasty time bombs in six sectors of space at different stages in the Earth's evolution. So, only pausing to grab a quick space/time conversion for your trusty Xenon attack craft, you zoom out in to the cosmos intent on getting rid of the bombs and annihilating the enemy fleet at the same time.

The laser/cannon/anything-else-that-kills annihilation takes place on stunning vertically scrolling backdrop, and the screen also scrolls sideways to enable your trusty Xenon fighter to take out any sneaky ellens that zoom off the side of the screen at an incredible rate of knots.

Three Sega conversion features three of the levels and bosses of the blockbusting five-level Amiga original and looks set to clean up as soon as it hits the shelves. Stay with MEAN MACHINES for the final, definitive review of this happening game!

MEGABLAST MASSACRE

The Amiga version of Xenon 2 possesses one of the best bolt-on blasters yet used in a progressive weaponry-based shoot 'em up. Over twenty extra weapons can be bought and sold in the game to make it that more deadly. Lasers, cannons, mines and drones can all be attached until your Xenon craft is more like a battle fortress than a pee-shooter-pecking angle seater!



XENON 2

MEGABLAST



XENON

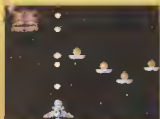
AST



▲ The Z Icone zap everything!



▼ Super Nashwan Power - owww!



▲ Pick up the pick-up power-ups



BOMB THE BASE WITH BOMB THE BASS

Accompanying the destruction is a Sega rendition of Bomb the Bass's Megablast soundtrack (in itself based on the theme tune from the movie Assault on Precinct 13, with some extra drums thrown in for good measure). Bomb the Bass fans (any takers?) will be pleased to learn that it's a pretty faithful rendition, considering the Sega's audio capabilities. You can turn the music off if you want and make do with the sound effects.



GRAPHICALLY GREAT!

Although the graphics are a bit more blocky, there's little to tell the Amiga version and the Sega game's graphics apart. As you can see the backdrops are pretty stunning, with a different stage of evolution depicted in each level. The sprites change accordingly too with each time period, with amoeba and shellfish in level one and advanced tanks and fighters at the end of the game.

▼ Mereuding aliens of doom!



▲ Biologically deranged creatures ehoy!

XENON

MEGABLAST

BY: MIRROR
PRICE: £TBA

RELEASE DATE: SEPT
GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM
LIVES: 3
CONTINUOUS: 3
SKILL LEVELS: 1
RESPONSIVENESS: GOOD



PREVIEW

NINTENDO



BOULDER DASH

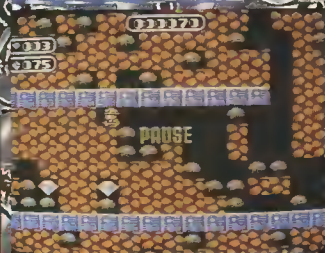
Rockford's a miner. For those born within the last twenty years, that's someone who digs the ground to obtain goodies like coal and gold. Our friend Rockford, though, is after precious jewels so he can retire to Frinton-on-Sea and mix with the stars.

The worlds in Boulder Dash contain four sections each, and Rockford tackles these in any order he wants. Inside the levels are a number of jewels and Rockford must grab a set number before he leaves again the exit. Making this task difficult are the traps that litter the levels which have a dangerous habit of falling over when Rockford digs the earth under or by them. Often there are nasty beasts trapped inside caves which can only be killed if our hero arranges a rockfall on top of them.

If that's not enough of a problem, every level is against the clock! Stay tuned to MEAN MACHINES for a full review of this wonderful game soon.



▲ Exploding the first level.



▲ Get to the exit before the time expires!

0000
105

PAUSE

▲ Loada jewels, just for Rocky.



▲ Choosing the colour of the hero.

PAUSE

▲ Beware of monsters and falling rocks!

THE ROCKFORD FILES

Boulder Dash has a long, lo-o-o-ng history. It was released on the Commodore 64 in 1984, and got a rave review in CVG - the score for playability was ten out of ten! Melbourne House turned it into an arcade game called Rockford two years later, but that proved to be a very disappointing. Now with its appearance on the NES and the Gameboy, it's set for another round of rave reviews!

GOING GREEN

One of the nicest touches is the ability to change the colour of Rockford to a hue that suits you. By pressing the joystick left or right the colours of Rockford's overalls cycle through the spectrum, including certain unpleasant shades of green. Interior design for the NES!

PAUSE

▲ Beginning the first world.



BY: DATA EAST

PRICE: £TBA

RELEASE DATE: XMAS
GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM
LIVES: 4
CONTINUES: INFINITE
SKILL LEVELS: 1
RESPONSIVENESS: FAST



PREVIEW

NINTENDO



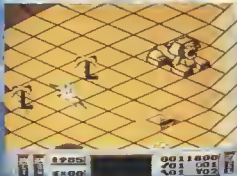
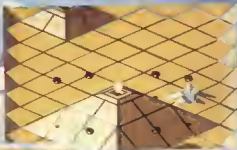
★★★CAPTAIN SKYHAWK★★★

Those pasky enemies are back again! Yup, another attack's coming towards the home base, and only one brave pilot has the skill, daring, and lack of sense to stop them.

The onslaught of baddies takes place over five levels, with huge bases to blow up on some missions while on others rescuing hostages or planting supplies in certain locations is the task. The first part of each level is an overhead view, but then the perspective changes to a 3D outlook a la Afterburner.

Following that, you have to dock your craft in an orbiting space station, a tricky procedure that requires split-second timing. Prove your manhood (or womanhood) with this interesting game - look out for a full review soon in MEAN MACHINES.

Dock that 'plane!



▲ Flying across the desert world.

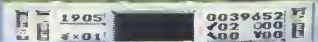
DESERT SONG



The second level is set in the sandy dunes of Egypt (or perhaps Glacion). Look out for palm trees, Sphinxes (with exploding noses), and volcanic eruptions. Dropping supplies in the correct hole helps to finish the level, but the 'plane has to be landed in the right place to complete it.



Everything's gone green.



The first guardian bee.

MASTER BLASTERS

Once the first level is completed, and the ship docked with the space station, there's a choice of some groovy weapons. The Maverick is a superb guided missile for ground attack, well worth the money (especially as a Christmas present). The AIM54 Phoenix is a delightful air-to-air weapon, designed for maximum destruction of flying enemies. However, those with a love of the simple things in life will go for the 25mm cannons, an upgrade for the main armaments. But expect to pay for such luxuries!



Captain
**SKY
HAWK**

BY: RARE

PRICE: STBA

RELEASE DATE: AUGUST

GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

LIVES: 3

CONTINUES: 1

SKILL LEVELS: 1

RESPONSIVENESS: MEGA



1
PLAYERS



YOB'S GOSSIP!

What's titillating, sexy and makes you all hot and sweaty with excitement? Not Kylie Minogue in a PVC miniskirt - YOB's Gossip, of course. He's got a veritable mound of tasty Information - check it out...

STARS ON GAMEBOY

The Gameboy is certainly the greatest piece of travelling videogaming technology - but don't take our word for it. Here's a list of celebs who are oft found sporting a Gameboy about their person, and quite surprising reading it makes too.

Danny Baker, Betty Boo, Ian Botham, David Bowie, Matthew Broderick, Mick Brown, Baine Carlsle, Terry Christian, Vince Clarke, Lloyd Cole, Tom Cruise, Geena Davis, Mickey Dolenz, Michael J Fox, Neil Fox, Balthezar Getty, Robin Givens, Whoopi Goldberg, Jeff Goldblum, Mark Goodier, Eddie Van Halen, Tom Hanks, Goldie Hawn, Vanilla Ice, Don Johnson, Davy Jones, Angela Lansbury, Emily Lloyd, London Boys, Rob Lowe, Paul McCerney, George Michael, Danni Minogue, Demi Moore, New Skids on the Block, William Orbit, Mike Read, Cliff Richard, Jonathan Ross, Kurt Russell, Philip Schofield, General Schwarzkopf (eh?), Pat Sharp, Will Smith, Mr T, Robin Williams, Bruce Willis and Henry Winkler

Flip me! I'll be doing a more research to see whether I can find any more and who's brought the Gameboy bug



TIM BOONE - CRAZY LOON!

Making a few discreet enquiries into the former life of new CVG Editor Time Boone. I've discovered a few interesting things about this cheeky young imp with the mischievous disposition.

He used to work on the Reading Parochial Times, where he wrote many exciting and varied stories, the most thrilling of which involved a Chinese takeaway owner who stole two joints of chicken from Sateway. The headline? WHAT A CHINESE TAKEAWAY! A genius of modern wit, no less!

What else did this ventable pun-machine do? Well, apart from being almost Harrodsque in his charitable nature towards the homeless (he once bought a set of false teeth for a tramp so that he could eat his Christmas dinner (the tramp that is, our Tim has a fine set of choppers)), he also loves dressing up as an Easter Bunny, almost died in a crane safety demonstration and loves ripping up the roadways of Reading in his turbo-powered Vauxhall Nova 1.2.

More information as and when it happens.

SPEND A FRANC

Ah! And here it is! Recently when Jaz and the boy Boone were invited to the swish launch of the Game Gear in Monaco, Tim spent the most expensive penny of his life. When waiting on le autobus pour le airport, the weekend of gastronomic fun 'n' frolics caught up with him and he was forced to sneak off to ensnare an urgent call of nature. However, while he was taking care of the business, the bus left, and he was forced to rush around and find a cab to take him to the airport before his plane took off! Le prix pour Monsieur Boone? A mere £11.00!!!

Oh well, better than chucking up into Nice's nicest dustbins, like some other Sega's associates I could mention. But won't



超



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UNBELIEVABLE

...of the game is yours in August